

Jobless still under 3 million

Unemployment in Britain fell last month to 2,954,414, or 12.2 per cent of the total workforce, thus again avoiding the politically embarrassing 3 million mark just before the Crosby by-election. The main cause of the decrease was a drop in unemployed school leavers. Adult jobless, however, rose to 1.4 per cent. Page 12

Loan rate cut shakes dollar

The dollar took a sharp knock on international currency markets yesterday as several American banks reduced their prime lending rates. A further fall in interest rates is expected. Page 12

£110m increase subsidy to BR

British Rail's passenger subsidy is to be raised by £110.4m to compensate for traffic lost through the recession. The amount is more generous than had been expected, but BR will still lose £50m on its passenger business this year. Page 2



Curb on foreign bank bids shelved

The Cabinet's economic strategy committee, shelved a plan to legislate against foreign takeovers of British banks prompted by the Bank of England's decision to accept a bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland. Page 12

Cut-price fares from BA

Discounted, "hitherto available only through 'backstage shops'", will be sold by normal travel agents under an experimental scheme starting on January 1. Discounts will average 25 per cent. Page 17

Saudis under the spotlight

The Arab summit, opens in Fez today with the Saudi, leading position under the spotlight, trying to sell the Saudi plan for a Middle East settlement to the hard-line states. Page 2

Labour post for women's rights

Miss Joan Lessor, a member of the Labour Party's national executive, will be responsible for women's rights and welfare in a new post in the Shadow Cabinet announced by Mr. Michael Foot, the Labour leader. Page 2

Scarman report on sale today

About 4,500 copies of the Scarman report on last summer's riots, five times the usual initial print run, for Stationery Office publication, will be available in London and seven other cities from 11 am today. Only 50 copies will be available at the Stationery Office bookshop in Manchester, one of the cities most affected by the riots. Scarman profile, page 11

Britain accepts less immigrants

Britain accepted 13,600 fewer immigrants in the year ended September 30 last. The drop was caused mainly by falling immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan and a decline in refugees. Rush to leave, page 4

Leader page 13
Letters: On British REC contributions, from Mr. Geoff Harris; racial imposture, from Professor Kenneth Kirkwood; SDP and education, from Mr. M. St. J. Parker.
Leading articles: rates, Arab summit, Mrs. Williams.
Features, page 12
No going back for the Poles this winter; the Catholic bishops take on Reagan.
Obituary, page 14
Sir Olaf Caroe, Mr. John Corbett.

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British oil rig drifts out of control in North Sea

By Staff Reporters

A British oil rig with 20 people on board was last night still drifting out of control in the North Sea in gale-force winds and mountainous seas after a day of high-drama and appalling weather that saw 66 oil rig workers clinging to safety.

Earlier a 27,660-tonne Norwegian service platform vessel, the Sedco/Philips SS, which had also dragged an anchor had threatened to collide with the platform in the Ekofisk field causing a major catastrophe. Last night, however, Phillips said the vessel was under control in a safe position 2,100 feet from the platform.

The British rig, the Transworld 58, which operates in the Aggrifield, was last night drifting slowly south-east, 200 miles south-east of Aberdeen with four tug boats shadowing her, hoping to put a line on board. But winds of 60 miles an hour and 30-40 foot waves were making their efforts. A spokesman for Hamilton Brothers, the rig's operators, said none of the men, who include two divers still in decompression chambers, were in danger, and that the situation was stable.

Gale force winds and heavy seas

"We are in communication with the tug, but obviously we are anxious to have it back under tow as soon as possible," he said. "At the rate the rig was moving it was 70 hours away from the nearest installation in the North Sea."

The Meteorological Office was forecasting a slow improvement in the weather, but with heavy seas and gale force winds continuing.

Earlier in the day 48 oil workers had been lifted from the 9,200-tonne rig, after it broke eight of its 12 anchors in waves of 30-40 feet.

Eighteen non-essential workers were also lifted from the Norwegian platform vessel, 30 miles north of the British rig's original position. They were taken to the Ekofisk field, seven miles away.

Ninety-four men remained on board the vessel, but the company said it hoped to remove further 25 non-essential workers from the vessel when the weather permitted. Oil production in both the Aggrifield and the Ekofisk fields ceased early yesterday.

During the day eight men were taken from the rig, a fishing vessel, off Peterhead, and North Sea ferry services were severely disrupted.

Anticipating bad weather the Transworld had shut down production as much on Monday, closing its surface valves. But in the early morning three anchor chains snapped in the huge seas and the crew donned survival suits. The rig began to lose its balance, more chains snapped and the crew themselves cut three other anchors to allow it to drift and prevent it capsizing. By last night it had drifted ten miles east-south-east of its original position.

At 7.30 am the British helicopter flew from Aberdeen to land on the platform rig and evacuate the men. The rig eventually lost all 12 of its

Crew decide to stay on board

The aircraft was actually flying "with the winds" were touching down as we were getting the crew on to the aircraft. We were trying to hold it down and keep it from blowing off the deck."

Last night a rescue crew from the trawler Palmyra, when it got into difficulties off Peterhead. It issued a mayday call when it began taking water and a Nimrod involved in the rig operation was directed to it. The Scottish Coastguard said the trawler had not given a clear identification and RAF rescue said that when a winchman went on to the vessel six of the eight crew insisted on remaining on board, asking for a pump.

The aircraft headed for the Forties field to collect one, but had twice to return to the vessel before the remaining crew agreed to abandon it. Last night it was low in the water and a service vessel was sailing towards it to see if it could be saved. Night of fear, page 2

Matthews sacks Stevens at Express

By Roger Berthoud

Mr. Jocelyn Stevens has been dismissed from his position as deputy chairman and managing director of Express Newspapers. The unexpected news came in a bleak statement from Lord Matthews, the chief executive of Trafalgar House, the conglomerate which controls the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star.

It said: "Lord Matthews announced today that Mr. J. C. Stevens is leaving the Express Newspapers Group with immediate effect, and his executive responsibilities are for the present being taken up by the deputy managing director, Mr. M. J. Murphy. The statement did not mention the fact that Mr. Stevens had resigned his position two weeks ago on being offered the post of deputy managing director of News Group, publishers of The Sun and News of the World. It is not known when he will be released from his contract."

Lord Matthews would throw no further light yesterday on the reasons for the abrupt departure of the mercurial Mr. Stevens, whose association with the group began in 1963, when he became personal assistant to Sir Max Aitken, then chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, which Trafalgar House took over in 1977. It is understood that he was to depart at a meeting on Monday afternoon of part of the board of Express Newspapers, at which Lord Matthews was present.

Mr. Stevens' first substantial job with the Express Group was as the Evening Standard's managing director from 1969-1972. There he enjoyed considerable success in improving its circulation and profitability. He had earlier attracted Sir Max Aitken's attention as the brilliantly successful flamboyant proprietor of the Edinburgh Evening Citizen, which he had bought in 1957, at the age of 25, with part of an inheritance from his grandfather, Sir Edward Hulton.

Queen magazine became part of the swinging sixties, and attracted a readership of 1.5 million. But the Evening Standard responded to Stevens' mixture of bright ideas and hard work. Confirmed on back page, col 1



Caged defendants: Some of the 24 men—four charged with the murder of President Sadat of Egypt and 20 with having taken part in the plot—are seen in a gridded dock during their trial which has opened in the Red Mountain military camp, in Egypt. The trial has so far been held in public. The prosecution has demanded the death penalty for all the defendants

Referendum plan is dead, Heseltine indicates

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Conservative backbenchers were left in little doubt last night that Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has dropped his long-term plan to push Northern Ireland into a united Ireland and "has never had any such plan. Those who claim that such plans exist can produce no evidence of them and only stir up groundless fears", he said.

Although he did not formally announce a decision, and was not expected to do so, he said he would to present Parliament a question in the next session of the party's backbench environment and finance committees to voice the opinion that the referendum was dead.

Mr. Heseltine also gave the impression that the Government was preparing to legislate in the next session of Parliament on the reform of the rating system.

He was said to have gone slightly further than Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, who indicated in the Commons earlier that the Government would legislate to bring forward a bill to amend the present rating system.

Backbenchers went into last night's meeting heartened by the Prime Minister's confirmation at Question Time of her intention to move speedily on the abolition of the present rating system.

She told MPs that it would be "advisable" for the Government to bring forward a bill during the present session.

She said: "I would have to make clear that the revenue which comes in from the rating system, domestic rates and business rates, would have to be replaced from revenue elsewhere. As Labour MPs laughed and retorted: 'One cannot have expenditure which is not covered by revenue'."

Private armies will not take over the policing of Ulster says Prior

From Tim Jones and Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said last night that the Government would not allow private armies in the province to take over the work of the police and the Army.

And he repeated his assurance that the Government has no plans to push Northern Ireland into a united Ireland and "has never had any such plan. Those who claim that such plans exist can produce no evidence of them and only stir up groundless fears", he said.

The warning on the private armies came as the British and Irish governments considered the longer-term impact of Monday's Day of Action by the United Irishmen, which, although it itself generally unimpressive, culminated in a chilling display of paramilitary strength after nightfall.

Mr. Prior said it appears to be at odds with the big Protestant paramilitary groups in the province who look with scepticism upon his Third Force and seem determined not to actively assist him.

By raising among Protestants the spectre of a united Ireland, Mr. Prior has touched the raw nerve of every unionist and he will be anxious to capitalize on the fear he has engendered.

Mr. Andy Tyrie, chairman of the Ulster Defence Association, the biggest Protestant paramilitary organization, said dismissively that the Third Force obviously had a lot to learn.

"We have been through it all before. If they are going to take on the IRA they will have big problems. The IRA is one of the greatest killing machines ever given to Europe. We are not sure what the Third Force is all about. Where is the war that was to have started today? They have marched and marched and nothing has changed."

In a clear reference to Mr. Prior's Third Force, Mr. Prior said: "The Government will not allow private armies to take over the work of the police and the Army. The Government will not adopt methods which abandon the rule of law or which are intended to punish the innocent."

It was, he said, in the interests of the people of the United Kingdom that there should be close and friendly relations with the Government of the Republic of Ireland, particularly on security. "Her Majesty's Government will not be deterred from its policy."

Predictably Mr. Prior was not impressed by the assurances and continued to insist yesterday that the Anglo-Irish talks were geared to involving Dublin directly in the affairs of Northern Ireland and eventually to put them into an all-Ireland state.

Mr. Prior's actions, he said, gave the lie to his words. And he promised that unless Mrs. Margaret Thatcher abandoned her madness "the Third Force would move again."

"I am not saying what the next step will be in detail. It will have to be done in such a way that the Government will really be shaking. There is not going to be any notice of it. It will be extreme action."

In Belfast, Stephen Hughes, 19, a Roman Catholic youth shot by two gunmen at his home in the Old Park area of the city within hours of the murder of the Rev. Robert Bradford, died yesterday. No organization admitted responsibility.

The British Council of Churches yesterday condemned as a betrayal of Ulster the tactics employed by Mr. Prior in his day of action and his proposals for a third force.

At its autumn meeting in London, the council, composed mainly of Protestant churches, overwhelmingly endorsed the criticism of the day of action made by the Irish council of Churches last week and went on to condemn actions "which place sections of the population, whether majority or minority, in fear for their lives."

Photograph, page 2

Brezhnev wants to cut arms says Schmidt

From Patrick Clough and Michael Binyon, Bonn, Nov 24

On the final day of talks between President Brezhnev and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, it became clear that East and West are still far apart on the crucial issue of arms control.

But Herr Schmidt said his Special Democratic parliamentary party that he had no doubt of the Soviet Union's serious intention to achieve substantial reductions "on medium-range missiles in the Geneva negotiations beginning on Monday."

After spending much of the talks trying to persuade Mr. Brezhnev that President Reagan was serious in wanting agreement on arms control, Herr Schmidt said tonight it was "clearer than ever" that the Soviet leadership cannot correctly evaluate the intentions of the American leadership.

It is suggested that the Russians are being deliberately sceptical about the American sincerity in order to present themselves as the real champions of peace, possibly to give added encouragement to the European peace movement.

Another point of disagreement remains the stretching up and balancing of weapon systems. Herr Kurt Becker, the German spokesman, said there had been little progress in the talks over the number of individual weapons on each side, but neither could agree which categories should be placed against each other and discussed in Geneva.

But the Chancellor said he had been fully briefed with the talks. The West Germans had, and would continue to have, the duty to act as interpreters of the Western position.

"No one could expect, and we at least did not expect that, even days before the beginning of the negotiations in Geneva the Soviet Union would be prepared to correct or change its negotiating position or even hint at concessions."

It was evident, he added, that the Soviet Union shared his view that the Geneva negotiations should be conducted stage by stage, rather than attempting global treatment of all European-based nuclear missiles at once.

The Chancellor said both sides had been clear and very honest with each other and the atmosphere had been friendly. But in public the talks have been accompanied by barrages of propaganda and polemics. Mr. Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet spokesman, this morning variegated on rudeness in sharply contradicting Herr Becker, asserting that the West German suggestion the Russians had misunderstood Mr. Reagan was false. They had fully understood his offer, he said, and found it completely unacceptable as it was only verbal propaganda.

The Soviet spokesman showed how sensitive the Russians are over the question of Mr. Brezhnev's health. Herr Becker said Herr Schmidt, speaking as a man who himself had just been ill, had been impressed by the Soviet leader's good physical condition and stamina. But Mr. Zamyatin, evidently misunderstanding, attacked Herr Becker, declaring Mr. Brezhnev was fully able to support a rigorous timetable.

Today was indeed a strenuous one for both. He had separate meetings with all four Parliamentary leaders: Herr Willy Brandt, Herr Helmut Kohl, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and Herr Franz Josef Strauss.

The Soviet daily Pravda carried references to Soviet missiles, Afghanistan and grain imports when it printed the text of a speech given by Herr Schmidt in Bonn on Monday night. (Reuter reports from Moscow.)

Birthday tribute, back page

Longford accuses an angry Hailsham

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Longford, clashed angrily in the House of Lords yesterday over the claim made in an article in The Sunday Times that the judiciary had thwarted penal reforms proposed by Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, aimed at reducing the prison population.

Both peers accused each other of not telling the truth when Lord Longford, noted for his lengthy campaigns for prison reforms, repeated the allegations made in the article.

Lord Hailsham intervened angrily as a debate opened on the letter in The Times from the governor of Wormwood Scrubs, Mr. John McCauley, describing the prison as a penal dustbin. Lord Longford, complaining about the alleged action of the judiciary, had just finished telling the House that it was totally wrong that the Home Secretary should be thwarted by the judiciary.

The judiciary, he said, were the custodians of our legal standards in this country and they of all people should never place themselves above the law.

Rising from the Woolstack, Lord Hailsham angrily told the House: "There is absolutely no truth in the suggestion that the judiciary have thwarted the Home Secretary, even if they had the power to do that."

At that point, charge and counter charge between the two came at breakneck speed. Lord Longford snapped back that there was not a word of truth in what the Lord Chancellor had said. Lord Hailsham replied: "I do not know on what authority the noble lord is questioning my words." He had been to great pains to discover the truth of what he had said.

Lord Hailsham explained that the judiciary were consulted and expressed their view as they were entitled to do.

Turning towards Lord Longford, he said: "I am not going to know whether he was challenging him when he said on his word of honour that the allegations were untrue."

But Lord Longford was in no mood to withdraw anything. It was the Lord Chancellor, he said, who had challenged the truth of what he had said.

Lord Hailsham again jumped angrily to his feet. To suggest that the judiciary was seeking to thwart the will of Parliament, which had not so far been expressed in an Act of Parliament, was wholly untrue, Lord Longford then embarked on another attack, suggesting that the judiciary was thwarting the will of the people as expressed by the Home Secretary by imposing too lengthy sentences.

Lord Hailsham again exploded from the Woolstack. Lord Longford, he said, was now making a different accusation. These attacks on the judges were without foundation and should be withdrawn.

But it was Lord Longford who got in the last word. "I repeat every word that I have said," he said defiantly.

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Victory is in sight for Williams

From Julian Havilland
Political Editor,
Liverpool

With only 24 hours of campaigning remaining, the Labour vote in the Crosby by-election appeared to be rapidly collapsing last night, in spite of the arrival of Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, in Merseyside.

As the evidence grew that traditional Labour voters were moving to Mrs Shirley Williams, the Social Democratic-Liberal Alliance candidate, to register their dissatisfaction with the Government, the opinion polls continued to give the message they have been giving for the past month, that Mrs Williams is going to win and become the first member of Parliament elected under the SDP banner.

Mr John Backhouse, the Labour candidate, seeing his support ebb away, admitted yesterday: "I have to accept that it does not look terribly good."

Mrs Williams was taking nothing for granted and denied that she regarded the election as already won. Asked to comment on the latest opinion poll, which gave her a 13 percentage point lead over Mr John Butcher, the Conservative candidate, she suggested that it might be another "secret weapon" from the Conservative arsenal, designed to give her a false sense of security.

Mr Butcher, who appears to be on the point of losing a majority at the last general election of more than 19,000, said he was very confident. "I am not losing this election, I am winning it," he declared with the imperturbable smile of a politician whose skin is thickening fast. "The people I am meeting are giving very good support to the Government."

Mr Butcher and Mr Backhouse are clearly up against something big. Mr Butcher, a more effective campaigner than some of his critics have recognised, has some evidence that his support has increased in recent days, though not by enough to save him. But for every percentage point the Conserva-



Stepping out on the campaign trail in Crosby, Mrs Shirley Williams gets the Walter Raleigh treatment from Mr Gabriel Brets, aged 29, a painter and decorator.

tives pull back, the Labour campaign appears to be losing in votes which go to Mrs Williams.

Mr Backhouse described the Social Democrats' appeal yesterday as "a new something; we are not quite sure what it is; a new phenomenon". He did not accept that he was not going to be MP

Others had told him on the doorstep that if they did not vote for her they would abstain.

The Conservative campaign yesterday briefly produced Mr Michael Alison, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, to make the most of the good news in the latest employment figures. He was optimistic, but tentatively so. He said that the impression he got was that the tide had turned, but it was difficult to be certain.

The seasonally adjusted figures showed unemployment beginning systematically to drop, although it is not dramatic and although it is still too early to be absolutely confident that this trend will be maintained, say, in January.

Mr Alison also made some modest claims for the new changes proposed in trade union law. He had no doubt that the public wanted further changes in industrial legislation, and they were going to get them. They would lead to further protection of the individual, and to modernization of the framework of trade union law.

Police which point to a landslide victory for Mrs Williams were dismissed yesterday by Mr Backhouse (the Press Association reports). The latest poll, carried out by MORI, forecasts that the alliance will win with a majority of 6,000. But Mr Backhouse, who would be left with 14 per cent support, according to the poll, said: "do not accept that I am not going to be the new MP for Crosby."

His own canvassing returns put him ahead of the alliance and one per cent behind the Tories, with 28 per cent of the vote. "The signs are that Tories are defecting to the Social Democrats,"

for Crosby, but conceded that the Social Democrats were gaining and he was losing because of a tactical switching of votes.

Mr Backhouse said some people whom he had canvassed in recent days had told him they were voting for Mrs Williams because they thought she was going to win.

Doctor in thick of bribe plan, court told

A Bournemouth doctor acted as a middleman in an attempt to pass £5,000 to a Maltese government minister to ensure that a hospital construction contract was given to John Poulson's company, it was alleged at Bournemouth magistrates' court yesterday.

Dr Kenneth Williams, aged 54, of Glenfern Avenue, Bournemouth, is facing criminal proceedings on two charges of corruptly offering £2,000 and £3,000 in 1966 for transmission to Dr Carmelo Caruana, then Minister of Public Buildings and Works in Malta.

Mr Anthony Purnell, for the prosecution, said that Dr Williams was "directly concerned" in seeking to give the money to Dr Caruana. The money, it was alleged, was paid by Vickers Ltd. Dr Williams was managing director of the company's medical engineering division at the time.

Mr Ernest Lester, chief cashier at Vickers, said in a statement that payments to the John Abela Trading Company, acting as agents for Caruana in Malta, were initiated by Dr Williams.

The money was meant to ensure that the design and construction contract for the Royal Victoria Hospital in Gozo, Malta, went to Poulson, Mr Purnell said. Coordinators would be the ITC, the International Technical and Construction Services Company, set up by Mr Poulson as his overseas trading company. The chairman was Mr Reginald Maudling, MP then in the shadow cabinet, and one of the directors was Dr Williams.

Mr Purnell said: "At an early stage it was decided that Caruana was to be bribed and Dr Williams was in the thick of it. Caruana wanted a party press and the idea was that the bribe should take the form of a contribution to build his press."

The hearing was adjourned until January 21.

Second defection to SDP on the GLC

By David Walker

The Social Democrats yesterday claimed their second seat on the Greater London Council when Mr Paul Rossi, a councillor formerly active in the Campaign for Labour Victory, announced that he was leaving Labour because of its continuing drift to Trotskyism. His application to join the Social Democrats will be a formality.

Mr Rossi, aged 31, who has held his Lewisham, East, seat only since last May, joins Mrs Anne Sofer, the former Labour member who resigned her seat and recaptured it for the Social Democrats. Mrs Sofer has recently been voting in alliance with Mr Adrian Slade, the council's only Liberal.

In a statement Mr Rossi said: "I intend to remain a member of the GLC. I am happy to fight a by-election against Ken Livingstone (the GLC Labour leader) if he will have the guts to resign and put his views to the test."

Mrs Sofer said Mr Rossi was a "terrific person" and she was very much looking forward to working with him. Mr Slade said that defection from Labour would not be the last. More would follow the push towards the GLC majority of four even lower.

Voting patterns at yesterday's GLC meeting suggested that Mrs Mair Garside could be another future defector from the Labour group. Mr Rossi's defection also affects the balance of power on the borough council at Lambeth, where he has been a councillor for seven years. It reduces Labour's majority there to eight.

His letter of resignation from the Labour group arrived at the GLC meeting just as Labour scored a tactical coup by tricking the Conservative opposition into adjourning the meeting after only minor items.

Labour council leader protests over 'threats'

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr John O'Grady, Labour leader of Southwark Borough Council, has protested against the use of threats and abuse by observers at an internal party appeal hearing held in London last week.

Mr O'Grady, leader of the council for 14 years, lost his appeal against a party decision to exclude him from the list of candidates for next May's local government elections.

In a formal protest, sent to Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, Mr O'Grady has called for a rehearing of his appeal.

A number of London Labour MPs are supporting Mr O'Grady, who is aged 61 and has been a Southwark councillor for 23 years. If appeal hearing last Monday Labour leaders take no action



'Romans' fight back

Michael Bogdanov, associate director of the National Theatre, is to be tried at the Central Criminal Court next March on a charge of gross indecency in connexion with the play *The Romans in Britain*.

An appeal was launched yesterday for funds to pay for his defence (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

The campaign was announced by Mr Andrew Leigh, administrator of the Old Vic, who said that the case involving Mr Bogdanov might be taken as far as the European Court of Human Rights in order to fight what the campaign sees as unfair censorship.

Mr Bogdanov faces a private prosecution brought by Mrs Mary Whitehouse under the Sexual Offences Act, 1956. His supporters believe the Theatre's Act, which in 1968 abolished the Lord Chamberlain's power of censorship over plays and provided the theatre with protection against those who seek to suppress uncomfortable scenes, is adequate.

Church Army appeal

The Church Army launched a £2.25m appeal yesterday to clear its film deficit and fund a series of projects. The army, which is affiliated to the Church of England, works among the poor, running hostels.

Fares ruling 'could harm transport'

By Frances Gibb

If the House of Lords rules that the Greater London Council's cheaper fares scheme is invalid there will be a very substantial rise in fares and a potential rise in serious efforts to London's transport services, a QC said yesterday.

Opening an appeal by the GLC against the Court of Appeal's recent ruling against its "Fares Fair" scheme, Mr Robert Alexander, QC, told the Lords' Appellate Committee that another effect could be that transport authorities throughout the country would be challenged over their fares policy.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, and two other judges in the Court of Appeal ruled on November 10 that the GLC had no power to impose a supplementary rate to pay for a 25 per cent cut in bus and underground fares.

They granted an order for the quashing of the supplementary precept to the Conservative-controlled London Borough of Bromley, which was appealing against a High Court ruling that the GLC was entitled to impose the extra rate.

Fares have remained at their new level pending the Lords decision, but the GLC was instructed to prepare to increase them in the event of the Lords upholding the Court of Appeal's decision.

Mr Alexander said the case taken openly with opportunity to some extent was presented today for debate. Mr. in the Court of Appeal as Alexander said.

The hearing continues today.

ification in the sense not only that ratepayers sometimes use the transport system, but that an efficient integrated transport system must, in the context of a modern city, affect the amenity directly or indirectly.

Another issue was effect of the supplementary rate imposed by the GLC. It had attracted a cut in its rate support grant by central government as part of its overall policy for keeping down expenditure. That was a penalty that boroughs thought unfair.

The question for the Lords, he said, was whether under the Transport Act, 1969, the GLC had power to implement the policies it did implement and, secondly, if there was that power, whether it had exercised it so unreasonably that it could not be regarded as a proper exercise of power.

For a decade both the Conservative and Labour parties when in power at County Hall had felt able to hold fare levels by ever increasing subsidies to London Transport, but if the judgment of Lord Justice Oliver in the Court of Appeal was right, that could no longer be done, he said.

There was no dispute that the GLC had set out in its decision manifesto a cut in fares as the remedy to the problem. The decision was taken openly with opportunity to some extent was presented today for debate. Mr. in the Court of Appeal as Alexander said.

The hearing continues today.

Monuments quango proposed

By Hugh Clayton

A new quango to take the management of national monuments out of Government hands was proposed by ministers yesterday.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in London that rather than impose spending cuts on the section of his department it administers ancient monuments and historic buildings, he preferred to create a new body outside the civil service which could tap voluntary expertise and inject some tasteful commercialism into the financing of historic houses.

"There is no way in which we are trying to create a commercially viable organization," he told the annual meeting of the Historic Houses Association.

Last year the Government spent £36m on the half of the nation's historic and ancient monuments which are in England, but only £7.5m was raised through entrance fees and souvenir sales. "A new agency would provide a central focus, which I am sure most people would agree is lacking at present," he said.

The Government said in a consultative document issued yesterday that the new body should absorb the Ancient Monuments Board for England and the Historic Buildings Council for England. It would also acquire almost 1,000 civil servants from the Department of the Environment.

Three months have been allowed for consultations, and the Government wants the new agency to open in April, 1983. Similar consultations have begun in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Ministers would hold a right of final decision over proposals by the new agency which affected private property owners. They would also appoint members of the agency's governing board.

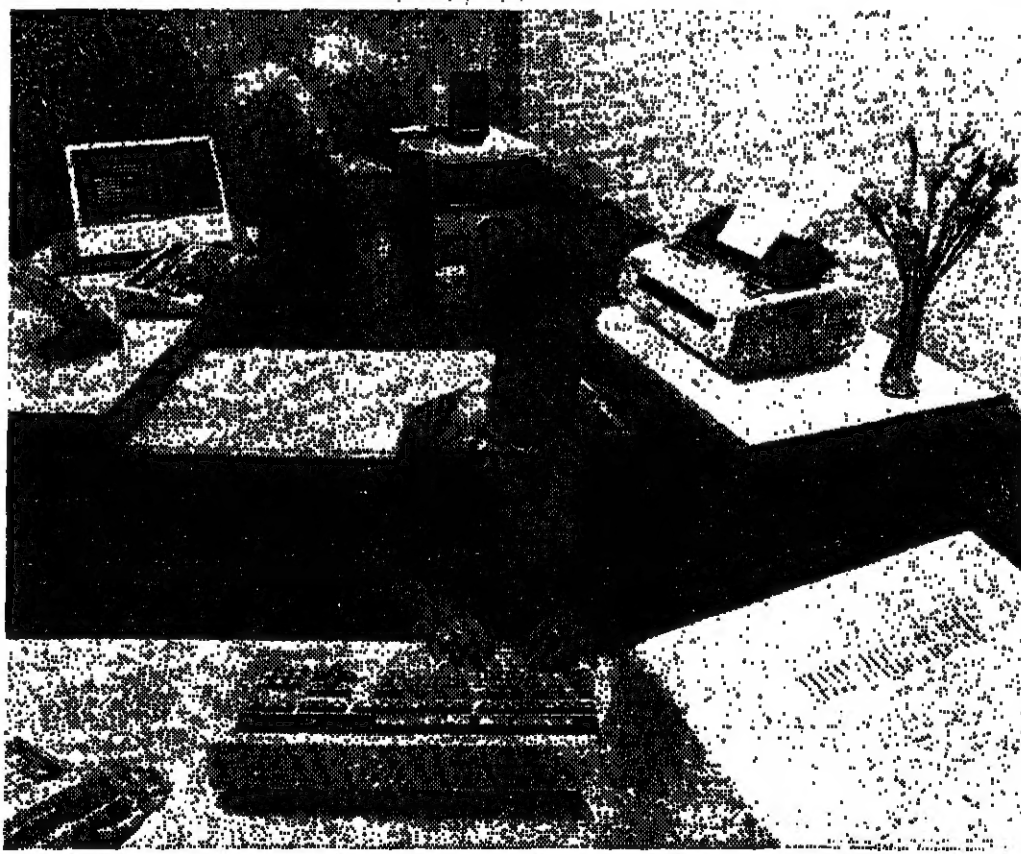
"Some of our ancient monuments are extremely well presented. Many are not," Mr Heseltine said. All of them would benefit from a more imaginative and professional approach.

SHEFFIELD FOURTH CITY

Sheffield has overtaken Manchester as the fourth largest city in England, according to the latest instalment of the official census. That blow to Mancunian pride has occurred because Manchester's population has shrunk faster than Sheffield's in the past 10 years.

The populations of all 10 of the largest English towns have fallen and there is now no centre outside London with more than a million. Birmingham's has dropped from 1,110,000 to 920,000 in the past 20 years.

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(T.2/81)

Highest court has only limited role in law

By Marcel Berlins Legal Correspondent

It is a paradox of the English legal system that "the highest court in the land," the House of Lords, does not have most influence in administration of the law.

The reason is largely numerical. Last year, for instance, the Law Lords, more correctly called Lords of Appeal in Ordinary, heard 52 appeals, of which some came from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Court of Appeal for England and Wales, in contrast, dealt with nearly 1,000 civil appeals and nearly 2,500 criminal appeals.

Most appeals, therefore, stop at the Court of Appeal, and its decisions create most precedents.

Lord Denning, who as Master of the Rolls is head of the Court of Appeal's Civil Division, has had far more impact on English law than Lord Wilberforce, the senior Law Lord.

Nevertheless, in hierarchical, and usually in qualitative, terms the Law Lords are Britain's top judges. There are at present nine of them, though sometimes there are 10. In addition the Lord Chancellor is entitled to sit as one. Two are usually from Scotland, because the House of Lords is the final court of appeal from some Scottish courts.

Law Lords are appointed by the Lord Chancellor and are usually drawn from the best appeal court judges. On the whole, appointments have not been controversial.

House of Lords appeals are heard in parliamentary committee rooms, in a quiet and unimposing atmosphere far removed from the bustle and pomp of other courts.

Law Lords do not wear judicial wigs, and they do not sit on pedestals or raised platforms. To the outsider they would seem more like a group of elderly businessmen than the cream of the country's legal brains.

A panel of five Law Lords can often result in five different judgments, or "speeches," as is constitutionally more valid (the Law Lords are carrying out the functions of the entire House of Lords). There has been criticism, therefore, that the final decision is not always clear cut. Where different judges have different reasons for their decisions it is often difficult to extract the common statement of law being made.

A more fundamental criticism is that there is no need for a two-tier appeal structure. Other countries manage with just one level and some legal experts believe that a second forum is unnecessary.

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Reagan's victory fails to resolve budget dilemma

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 24

President Reagan's series of spectacular victories over Congress are reminiscent of those of old Western films in which the hero finds himself facing what appear to be overwhelming odds, yet the audience knows he will manage to shoot his way to safety and to fight another day.

Mr Reagan's latest success, which ended last night with the President riding off into a California sunset after forcing a veto of a bill to approve a short-term funding Bill, was predictable. Yet, just as modern Westerns do not always have a happy ending, so there remains a lingering impression in Washington that the President may not emerge unscathed from future shoot-outs with Congress.

His critics in Capitol Hill have accused him of stage-managing yesterday's confrontation, which at one time threatened to bring the Federal government to a standstill. "It was a manufactured show-out at OK Corral," said Senator Robert Byrd, the minority leader in the Senate.

Despite the President's denial, it is clear that the White House opted for a confrontation to show Congress and the country that he was still serious about cutting Federal spending. The money involved, \$2,000m represented less than half a per cent of the \$428,000m emergency spending Bill which the President vetoed yesterday morning.

But it was the symbolism which was all-important. The White House evidently believed that the President's economic programme, which has already been badly buffeted by the deepening recession, would fatally lose momentum if he was not seen to be pursuing additional budget cuts.

What was really at issue was not the level of spending during 1982, but the battles which are looming over the 1983 and 1984 budgets. Everyone expects that next year's deficit will be

huge. The Administration is still clinging to the hope that it can be kept to about \$43,000m, but unofficial estimates indicate it could be double that, or more.

The real test of the President's economic recovery programme will be the following two years. By then the recession should have ended and the economy have begun to be revitalised by the Administration's tax cuts. However, the President's overriding objective of substantially reducing the budget deficit by 1984 can only be achieved if more and larger cuts are made in domestic spending.

Yesterday's victory did nothing to solve the President's budget dilemma. All it did was to establish a ceasefire for three weeks so that the President and Congress could get away for this week's Thanksgiving holiday and then return, refreshed for a new confrontation before the December 15 deadline for Congress to submit a new continuing resolution.

Whether Mr Reagan's new victory over Congress will turn out to have been good politics is another matter. Certainly he has succeeded again in exposing the weakness and disarray in the Democratic Party: forty-three House Democrats defected to give the President his requested extension of Federal spending power until December 15.

Of greater concern to the President will be the effect which the events of the past 24 hours will have on his own party. Some Republican leaders are angry because they believe they have been deliberately misled by the White House.

They were given to understand that the continuing resolution which was laboriously hammered out by the two houses of Congress last week-end would meet with presidential approval. They were angered and dismayed when it was summarily vetoed.

Washington tension rises over Nicaragua

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Nov 24

Fresh attacks by Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, on the leftist Sandinista Government of Nicaragua, reflect increasing concern in the Reagan administration that the country could become an armed camp to spread subversion through Central America.

In Mexico yesterday Mr Haig said there was some evidence that Soviet-made MiG fighters sent to Cuba could be intended for eventual shipment to Nicaragua, although he later agreed they could be there for other purposes.

But whether or not the MiGs end up in Nicaragua, it is clear Mr Haig's words indicate growing nervousness in the United States about the Sandinista Government's actions.

In a weekend television interview Mr Haig said the United States had been making a dedicated effort in recent weeks to have full normal and complementary relationships with Nicaragua.

"Unfortunately, the leadership has rejected those approaches and has steadily increased its drift toward totalitarianism," Mr Haig said. Mr Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Defence, on another weekend programme said it was clear the Nicaraguans should be aware that the United States would tolerate only so much interference in an area it regarded as being of vital interest. But the administration was not in the business of drawing firm lines.

Mr Haig again at the weekend said there had been a high influx of Eastern block and Soviet weapons into Nicaragua, but Washington had not given up hope that Nicaragua would remain a friendly nation.

Administration officials leave what might be done as vague as possible. Mr Haig reaffirmed the President's recent statement that there were no plans to use American forces.



Americans show off air power in Egypt

The B52s came in from the south-west just 600ft above the ground and the little string of 500lb bombs that fell from their bomb-bay doors looked at first like confetti. Robert Elsk writes from Wadi Natroun, Egypt. They rained out of the aircraft and hit the Egyptian desert in 27 small bubbles of fire. But the blast waves came thumping over the sand and slammed into the chests of the spectators. Five Soviet block military attachés were there and General

Robert C. Kingston, the commander of the American Rapid Deployment Force, saw what was being done. "Let them see what we are doing," he said, like a man who knew his superpower politics. "I think you cannot walk away from a Bright Star operation and not be impressed with the projection of forces half-way around the world." The noise, the show staged today by the United States and Egyptian air forces 15 miles west of Wadi Natroun was an impressive display of command-and-

control techniques. Egyptian Soviet-built TU16 bombers, "Badger" by its Nato code-name, followed the B52s, and Egyptian MiG17s arrived to strafe the desert floor within seconds of the Badgers' departure. The eight-engined B52 Stratofortress had flown direct from North Carolina, refuelling over the Atlantic, and they flew straight back again without touching down in Egypt, a 30-hour, 15,000 mile round trip.

Governor is dismissed

Sir Probyn Ellsworth-Innis, the British Governor of the tiny Caribbean islands of St Kitts and Nevis, is being dismissed by the Foreign Office in London after a long constitutional dispute with the Prime Minister of the associated state.

Sir Probyn, who became Governor of the islands six years ago, was told last Monday that his commission would be withdrawn tomorrow. Although he has described the short notice as "indecent," he has known

for several months that he risked being dismissed. Since the neighbouring island of Anguilla was formally split from its Federation with St Kitts and Nevis last year, Sir Probyn has been refusing to sign local bills which no longer refer to the state as St Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla. He argues that a British Act of Parliament which separated Anguilla from St Kitts and Nevis last December did not entitle the territory which he governs to drop Anguilla from its title.

Release of S African detainees demanded

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Nov 24

The "immediate and unconditional" release of all political detainees in South Africa, and the abolition of security legislation, were called for in a resolution adopted at a meeting in the Central Methodist Church here last night.

The meeting, attended by 500 people, was organised by the recently formed detainees' Parents Support Committee, mainly made up of middle-class whites.

The Rev Peter Storey, the president of the multi-racial South African Council of Churches, to which only the three Afrikaans-based Dutch Reformed Churches do not belong, urged the Government of choosing "the way of barbarism." He argued for a return to the "Christian rule of law," whereby men had the right to defend themselves and be defended.

Ms Barbara Simola, the wife of Mr Walter Simola, one of the African National Congress leaders, said that it was time "to wake South Africans from their complacent political slumber" and to make them recognize these monstrous laws "for what they were. She

called on the mothers of all detainees to unite. It is difficult to get accurate figures on detainees. But conservative estimates suggest that about 120 people are "banned", and 220 detained under security laws.

Banning orders can be for up to five years, and are often renewed as soon as they expire. The banned person is confined to a particular district, sometimes to virtual house arrest, and can only be quoted in the newspapers. He or she usually has to report regularly to the nearest police station.

The latest batch of detentions, which led to the formation of the committee, included a number of politically radical, but non-violent white students active in a variety of social causes.

The resolution said that the Government's use of security laws to bypass the courts had created a habit of "official lawlessness" which would eventually destroy the fabric of society.

BAUDOUIN CHOOSES DE CLERCQ

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 24

Mr Willy de Clercq, president of the Flemish Liberal party (PVV), has been chosen by King Baudouin to form a new Belgian government. The leader of the right-wing party—the only one to have made gains on both sides of the linguistic frontier in the general elections—two weeks ago—has accepted the difficult job.

Mr de Clercq is the second choice, as Prime Minister. Yesterday the King made the same offer to Dr Wilfried Martens, the Flemish Socialist Christian leader, who has been Prime Minister in four governments.

Dr Martens' party told him the offer must be refused. "Having been in power at the time of the crisis which precipitated the early general election, the Flemish Socialist Christians do not feel it would be appropriate for them to take over again at this stage. Many senior members are opposed to even joining any government after the drubbing the party received at the elections," he said.

Mr de Clercq, whose tough monetarist policies have been described as a form of "Thatcherism," has been eager for power since the success of his party at the election. Nevertheless, he will find it difficult, if not impossible, to form any partnership with the Socialists. The King's selection of Mr de Clercq does not mean therefore that a government will necessarily be formed quickly, despite the urgent need for strong control at the centre to make change.

Appeal on Argentine journalists

By Denis Taylor

Senior Jacobo Timerman, former publisher of the Buenos Aires newspaper, *La Opinion*, yesterday repeated his call for an international tribunal to investigate the disappearance of journalists in Argentina, where 100 were missing, he said. Such a tribunal was needed to show the world the meaning of the fight against silence and for freedom and decency.

Senior Timerman, who was expelled from Argentina in 1979 after spending a total of more than two years in prison and under house arrest, was speaking at the annual lunch of the Writers and Scholars Educational Trust, which sponsors publication of the journal, *Index on Censorship*. His account of his detention and torture, given in his book *Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number*, reached a furor in the United States, and he appeared before the Senate foreign relations committee, which later refused to support President Reagan's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Mr Ernest Leifer.

Senior Timerman said yesterday that the main problem in fighting for human rights and freedom of expression was "the ideology of silence," and he criticized both the Reagan Administration and the Communists on his account. He returned the argument that human rights could best be fought for discreetly: "Let me tell you that there is not one former prisoner and not one prisoner in any jail in any country in the world who will accept the ideology of silence."

Sattar names his deputy

By Our Foreign Staff

Defying pressures from within his own ruling party, President Abdur Sattar of Bangladesh has chosen an economist, Dr Mirza Nurul Huda, as his Vice-President. He was sworn in at Dhaka yesterday.

Dr Huda, aged 62, belongs to no political party. He served as Finance Minister in previous governments.

President Sattar resisted pressure from the ruling Bangladesh National Party which he leads, and the army, both of which hoped a vice-president would be drawn from within their ranks.

Mr Sattar bowed to economic dictates: Dr Huda has long experience of negotiating with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the 25-nation Bangladesh aid consortium.

With IMF payments suspended to Bangladesh and world aid tight, President Sattar needs Dr Huda's skills to try to regain the confidence of international lenders.

Dr Huda will step into the presidency if Mr Sattar, aged 76, vacates it through ill-health or misadventure.

As well as trying to placate international creditors, President Sattar is struggling to assert authority over the army, whose chief of staff, Lieutenant-General H. M. Ershad, is pressing for an army role in running the country.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Karpov's Order of Lenin

Moscow.—Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, has been awarded the Order of Lenin, the Soviet Union's highest civilian honour. Karpov, who beat Viktor Korchnoi, the Russian exile, in Merano, Italy, last week to regain his title for another three years, had been honoured for his "outstanding accomplishments in chess."

The award was also in recognition of his "big positive contribution to the Soviet school of chess and for his beneficial social activity." Karpov was awarded the Red Banner of Labour after he beat Korchnoi in the 1978 championships in the Philippines.

Bomb blast at consulate

Hamburg.—A 20lb bomb exploded outside the British Consulate in Hamburg damaging the steps and breaking several windows. The explosion, which the bomb in a red gas bottle apparently failed to explode properly and no one was hurt.

The bomb had been left in a brown travelling bag inside the consulate building. It also contains the residence of Mr John Simeon, the Consul-General.

Broglie hearing adjourned

Paris.—For the second time since it began a fortnight ago, the hearings in the Broglie case were delayed and the adjourned till today because M Pierre de Varga, one of the defendants, was ill and another fainting fit. (Charles Hargrove writes). He has been suffering from a coronary complaint and has been under treatment for a year under police supervision. On the second day of the trial, de Varga was taken ill in court, but proceedings were resumed after he was given treatment on the spot.

The four defendants are charged with instigating, organising and executing the shooting of Prince Jean de Broglie on a Paris street on Christmas Eve 1976. The prince, a scion of an illustrious family, was a prominent politician and co-founder, with former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, of the Independent Republican Party.

The four men in the dock are M de Varga, a business associate of the late prince; M Guy Simeon, a former police inspector; M Gérard Fradet, a barrister; and M Serge Tessedra.

Airliner disaster caused by blast

Rome.—After studying the findings of British experts, the Rome Public Prosecutor's office has decided to call for more laboratory tests on the wreckage of an Italian DC9 aircraft that crashed in unexplained circumstances last year near the island of Ustica, killing 81 people.

British experts who examined parts of the wreckage are understood to have told Dr Giorgio Santacroce, the prosecutor dealing with the crash, that it was caused by an explosion. They have not said whether the blast occurred inside or outside the aircraft. There have been theories that the crash was caused by sabotage or by missile.

Dr Santacroce has also asked for another search of the seabed to find more wreckage and the flight recorder box. Attempts to find the box were made but abandoned. The aircraft crashed into deep water. It was going from Bologna to Palermo.

Pope's attacker refuses food

Ascoli Piceno.—Nehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist serving a life sentence for shooting the Pope last May, has started a second hunger strike. According to prison officials, Agca, held in a top security prison outside this Italian city, has eaten nothing since yesterday. According to warden Cony, "he is accepting only water," a warden said.

Gibraltar strike

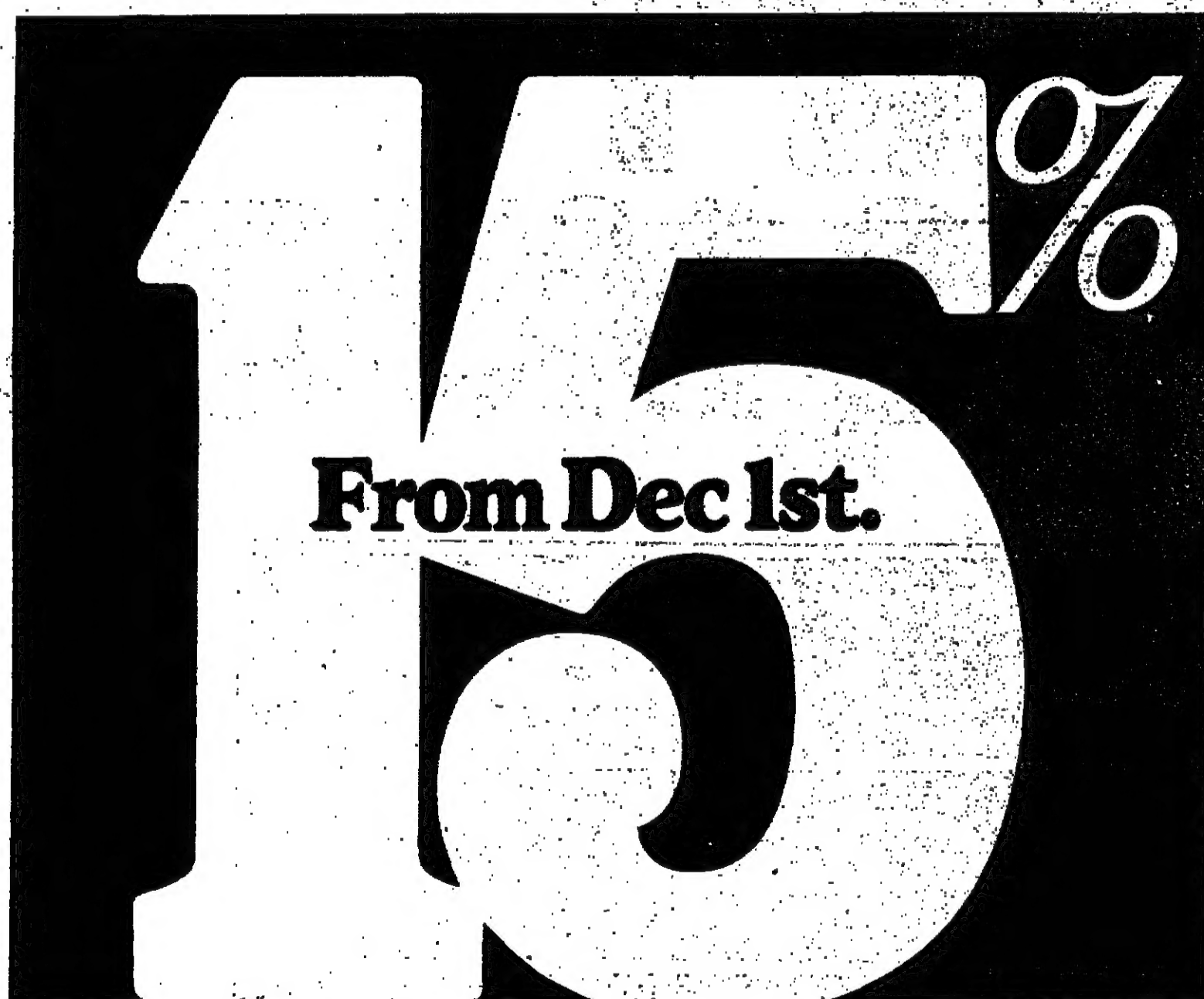
Gibraltar.—Workers in Gibraltar's naval dockyard belonging to the Transport and General Workers' Union announced they would down tools today to protest against the British Government's plans to close it down from the beginning of 1983. The stoppage will last only a few hours but the workers said they would later refuse to help in closing the dockyard.

Paris car blast

Paris.—Responsibility for a fire bomb attack that destroyed two Soviet Embassy cars parked in a Paris street has been claimed by a group named after Stepan Bandera, a Ukrainian nationalist murdered 22 years ago. An anonymous telephone call to Agence France Presse just after the bombing claimed it had been carried out "to commemorate the rebirth of Ukraine."

Zia joy over jet deal

Islamabad.—President Zia ul-Haq welcomed the passing of a deadline for the sale of 40 F16 jets to Pakistan. "It shows that our difficulties have started becoming easier," he told journalists.



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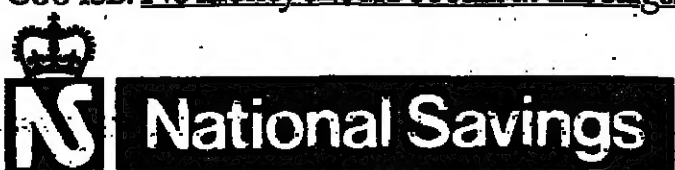
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مكاتب الاستثمار

Success at Arab summit hangs on Saudi leaders

By Edward Mortimer

As the curtain rises in Fez, Morocco, today, on the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference, the spotlight will be on the Saudi delegation. This is a novel position for Saudi Arabia's leaders, who usually shun the limelight and confine their public role in Arab diplomacy to the pledging of moral and financial support for whatever stands are adopted by consensus.

Herr Franz Josef Strauss once said that Germany could not indefinitely remain an economic giant and a political dwarf. The same, perhaps, is true of Saudi Arabia. In economic terms, Saudi Arabia has been an important regional power since the 1960s and something of a world power since 1973. But its foreign policy has been defensive.

The wealth of the Saudi leaders, combined with sparse population, military weakness and close relations with the United States, makes them feel acutely exposed to Arab nationalist anger whenever Israel, with implicit or explicit American support, does anything particularly outrageous to Arab sensibilities.

In the early 1970s they gave strong backing to President Sadat who appeared much preferable to Colonel Nasser, both by his anti-communism and by his sympathy for Islamic tradition. But they dropped him like a hot potato once it was clear that, with the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Israel, he had gone far beyond what could be accepted by even a grudging Arab consensus.

The Camp David affair was made all the worse, from the Saudi point of view, by the fact that it coincided with the Iranian revolution and was followed, in November 1979, by the most embarrassing imaginable event for the self-appointed guardians of Islam's holy places: the seizure of the Holy Mosque in Mecca, on the first day of the Muslim year 1400, by a band of armed fanatics most of whom were Saudi citizens.

The Saudis badly needed a new pillar on which to lean in their struggle to stem the tide of revolution in the Arab and Muslim worlds, and at first they fixed on Iraq.

This might have seemed an improbable choice, given the secular character of the ruling Baath party in Baghdad, its official support for

Israel is likely to veto Sinai force

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv, Nov 24

The Israeli Foreign Minister, gave a warning that the various statements made by Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands on their participation in the Sinai peace-keeping force had not made Israel's decision on whether to accept them any easier.

His remarks have hardened the conviction in Israeli political circles that the Cabinet will vote to veto European participation.

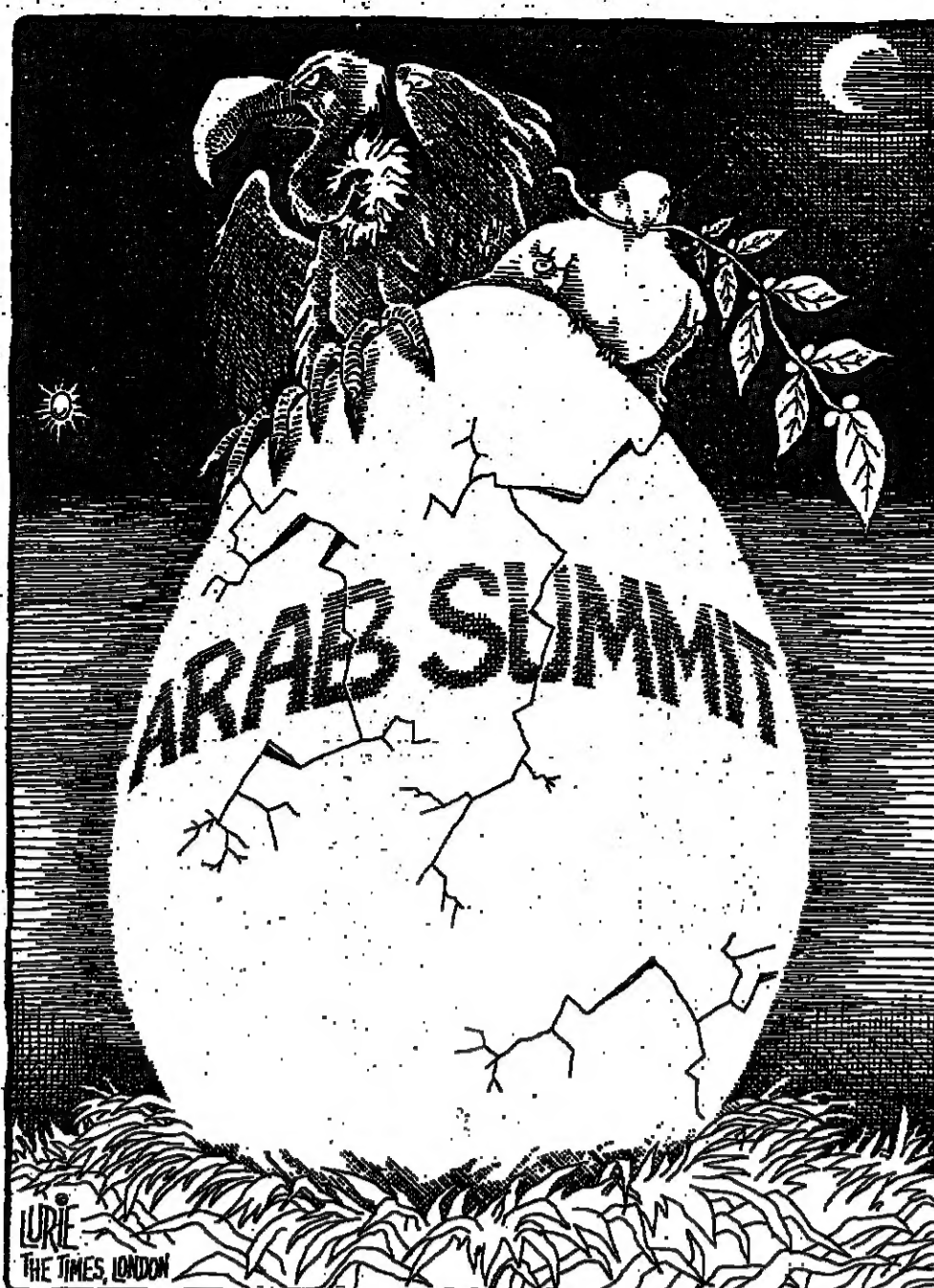
Israeli sources made it clear today that the Government gives equal weight to the different categories of statement issued in Europe yesterday. Particular anger is directed against identical sentiments expressed by the four countries in favour of both the Venice declaration and the need to involve the Palestine Liberation Organization in the peace process.

Last night, the chief spokesman of the Foreign Ministry pointed out that the European statements "seen to be in contradiction to the Camp David Agreements". It has now emerged that this initial comment was made after consultation with the Prime Minister's office and is taken to reflect the views of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister. Although officials refuse to commit themselves further in public until the Cabinet meeting, all hint strongly that dissatisfaction felt by ministers will result in a veto — the right to which has been granted to Israel under the terms of Camp David.

The one factor which could bring about a last-minute change of heart is the heavy diplomatic pressure expected to be exerted by the United States Government, which has come out strongly in support of European participation.

But in diplomatic circles tonight, there was deep pessimism about the Reagan Administration's chances of dissuading Mr Begin from exercising the veto — even though such a move could seriously damage efforts to form a genuinely multinational participation. So far the only countries to have unconditionally stated their willingness to take part in the 2,500-strong force are the United States, Colombia, Uruguay, and Fiji.

Canberra: Australia will take part in the Sinai peace-keeping force, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, announced here



Hatching

EEC ministers in generous mood

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 24

European finance ministers ignored money and in consequence seemed in a generous mood when they began discussions today on the draft budget, after it had been cut by the finance ministers in July. Yesterday, a parliamentary delegation met the Finance Council and sought to convert the ministers to a more generous attitude.

They seemed prepared to reach a compromise on extra money for the regional and social fund, for energy and information technology and for housing in Northern Ireland. These non-obligatory expenses are all items which the European Parliament wants to see this type of item to be supported by the Community. They were voted more directly under control back by the Parliament into the conversion of the Council to the parliamentary viewpoint appeared, nevertheless, to be little more than skin deep. For their different reasons few of the ministers wanted the budget to rise above the £11,314,000m agreed by the Council meeting in July.

An agreement reached today in principle to allow extra money to cover the transport costs of food aid to Poland was along the lines suggested by the Parliament. The Parliament wants to see this type of item to be supported by the Community. They were voted more directly under control back by the Parliament into the conversion of the Council

Papandreou loses communist support

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Nov 24

The Greek Communist Party refused today to give a vote of confidence to the new Socialist Government, because of "inadequacies and ambiguities" in its programme, especially in foreign affairs.

The Papandreou Government, which has the support of 170 Socialist deputies in the 300-member Parliament, was expected to win a comfortable majority at a midnight vote which will wind up the three-day debate on the Government's policy statement.

Mr Harilaos Florakis, Secretary-General of the Communist Party (KKE), the third main party in the House, said today the 13 Communist deputies would cast a blank vote.

"Our impression from the debate," he said, "is that vital targets of the programme of change are being postponed indefinitely."

The Communist leader criticized the new Government for failing to commit itself on the immediate withdrawal of Greece from the Nato military alliance, and the removal of United States military bases.

He said: "The Government announced it would negotiate with the Americans a timetable for the withdrawal of the bases from Greece. But at the same time it speaks of reviewing annually the status of the bases. This means that they will be here many years. We believe the timetable should be fixed and brief."

Mr Florakis admitted that there were many positive points in the Government's programme, especially in domestic policies, such as the nationalization of monopolies. But even here, he said, there were gaps.

Another speaker, Mr Evangelos Averoff, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister in the defeated Conservative Government, claimed that the Government had not disclosed a surprise sortie by six formations of Turkish warplanes over the Aegean just after the new government was formed. Greek fighters had been sent to intercept.

Mr Averoff claimed that the Turkish action had been a "deliberate provocation" to protest against an interview given by Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister, to an American television network.

'Sweeney Todd' wins Emmy for LWT

From A Correspondent, New York, Nov 24

British television productions outshone strong contingents from 22 countries in the international Emmy awards ceremony last night.

The Emmy in the performing arts category went to London Weekend Television for its study of a stage production, *Sweeney Todd: The Making Of A Musical*.

Seven other awards went to Britain at the ninth annual competition presented by the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

British productions also made a strong showing in the three other categories, outclassing 109 entries from 47 broadcasters and 16 languages.

London Weekend was also placed in the popular arts category with *End of Part One* and *Peter Cook and Company*.

The Australian series, *A Town Like Alice*, won the drama category, followed by two British placings: *The Reason of Things* from Yorkshire Television, and *The Good Soldier* from Granada TV.

France's *Société Nationale de Television Française 1* won the documentary section with *Chartres pour l'Enfer*. Two plaques in this category went to *The Clive James Paris Fashion Show* by London Weekend, and Ireland's RTE production, *Victims of Violence in Northern Ireland*.

In the performing arts section, behind LWT's *Sweeney Todd*, came the BBC's *The Right Royal Company*, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Ballet and its production of *Isadora*. Emmy organizers paid homage to the British productions today, saying they far outclassed American-made films.

A special award went to Sir Huw Wheldon, the former BBC chief, for his contribution to the television industry.

The name Emmy comes from the French derivative, *immy* — a nickname for *image orthicon*, a camera tube used in television.

Blaze kills man

The body of Mr Malcolm Booth, aged 43, was recovered by firemen yesterday after a blaze destroyed his house in Goscoat, Lodge Crescent, Walsall, West Midlands.

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While we'll soon be announcing the names of just two winners of this year's GEM Awards, really — as they say in Hollywood — "Everybody wins."

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BRITISH GAS

Pakistan orders Indians out in retaliatory move

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad, Nov 24

In a "tit-for-tat" exchange, the Pakistan Government today ordered four members of the Indian Embassy Staff to leave the country within 72 hours — a day after India expelled three Pakistani diplomats from Delhi, accusing them of spying.

Both sides rejected the other's allegations. The Indians called the Pakistani move "instant retaliation and pure propaganda". A Delhi spokesman said: "They were in such a hurry that they bumped one person who was on home leave."

The chain of events began on Monday in Delhi when the Indian Government ordered three members of the Pakistani mission to leave. One of them, Mr Gul Zaman, was alleged to have been "caught red-handed while receiving classified documents relating to defence matters". Delhi denied a Pakistani allegation that Mr Zaman had been beaten up by Indian police who "abducted him while on a shopping trip".

Today, the Pakistan Government summoned Mr Natar Singh, the Indian Ambassador in Pakistan, to the Foreign Office and asked him to withdraw four members of the Indian mission within 72 hours. Their names and designations were not revealed. One of them was said, however, to have been working in the visa section in Islamabad.

It was officially stated here that three members of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi and one at the Indian Embassy in Islamabad had been ordered to leave, due to their involvement in activities

Women and natives win fight for Canadian rights

From Our Correspondent, Ottawa, Nov 24

The Federal Government and nine Canadian provinces cleared another hurdle on the path to constitutional reform last night when they reached agreement on the entrenchment of women's rights and aboriginal rights in a new constitution.

The announcement was made in the House of Commons by Mr Jean Chrétien, the Federal Justice Minister, as the House debated a resolution aimed at bringing home Canada's existing constitution, based on the 1867 British North America Act.

The resolution would give effect to an agreement worked out by Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister and all the provincial premiers

except Mr René Lévesque of Quebec, at a Federal-Provincial summit here on November 5.

Aboriginal rights were left out of the right charter agreed as part of that accord. Women's rights were made subject to an overriding clause that would have enabled provincial legislatures to set them aside if they conflicted with provincial legislation.

The principal stumbling block was the fear by some provinces, notably Alberta, that the recognition of aboriginal rights might open the door to excessive land claims by Indian, Métis (mixed race) and Inuit (Eskimo) native groups.

Chinese beat Columbus to it

From Elisabeth Chang of AFP Peking, Nov 24

Contrary to the usual belief in the West, America was not discovered by Christopher Columbus and the printing press was not invented by Gutenberg. Every Chinese child learns at school that a certain Bi Shen invented printing with movable letters in the year 1041, or four centuries before Gutenberg.

So far as America is concerned, while there are Western theories that the Vikings may possibly have beaten Columbus there, children here learn that a Chinese explorer reached the American continent 1,000 years before Columbus.

Mr Fang Zhongpu, a Chinese historian, claims to have proof that Hui Shen, a Chinese Buddhist monk, landed on the Mexican coast in the fifth century.

According to Mr Fang, the descriptions given by Hui of his trip to the country of Fusang corresponded exactly to the scenes and countryside of pre-colonial Mexico.

Two American researchers, Professor James Moriarty and Mr Larry Pierson of the University of San Diego, are convinced that the Chinese were the first to discover America.

They base their argument on the fact that Chinese stones found in California were brought by Chinese vessels in a period running from about 500 BC to AD 1500.

But the Chinese look on America and printing as just two examples out of dozens of others where the West staked claims on Chinese discoveries.

The Chinese claim to have invented spaghetti, wrongly attributed to Italians; gunpowder in the tenth century; the compass in 200 BC; porcelain; and tea and silk

machines are just a few items on a lengthy list, and the press here never misses a chance to praise Chinese explorers and inventors. But occasionally some of these claims get out of hand.

The provincial daily newspaper, *Ningxia Ribao*, described a Chinese scholar named Wan Hu as the world's first cosmonaut, when in fact this title belongs to Major Yuri Gagarin, a Russian.

The newspaper said that in 1500 AD Wan Hu tried to launch himself into space by sitting in a chair attached to 47 rockets and holding on to a "giant kite" with which he planned to descend to earth. Unfortunately, he died when a rocket exploded.

A handbook of traditional Chinese medicine dating back 1,500 years mentions Huo Yin carrying out surgery after anaesthetizing his patients with herbal plants.



Love affair is stalled

The Chinese are continuing to stall matters in the love affair between Li Shuang, aged 25, a Chinese painter and M Emmeline Bellefroid, aged 33, a former French diplomat in Peking and now professor at the Chinese University in Hong Kong. While she was preparing to leave China to join M Bellefroid, she was arrested and on October 9 she was charged with being in an "irregular situation" and sentenced to two years' "re-educational education."

Poles step up election pressure

Warsaw, Nov 24 — Students, farmers and oil workers staged strikes and protests in Poland today as pressure mounted on the Communists to hold free local elections.

Leaders of the independent students union said at least 73 of the country's universities and colleges were on strike to force the rector of an engineering college to resign and to back a new liberal education law.

Farmers were staging occupation strikes after a warning by Rural Solidarity leader, Mr Jan Kulig, that Poland could face famine this winter.

A 19-year-old Polish hijacker, who eluded anti-terrorist police last night when the plane he had commandeered landed in the wrong part of Gdansk airport, was captured today, the official news agency PAP said.

The state cannot be left weak for the sake of individual freedoms, the assembly told. They did not need to take into consideration any other constitutional models. The guidelines he offered them provided for a president with effective powers, a strong executive and a strong legislature, all supported by two many judicial constraints, and a parliament free of extremists.

In this "democracy" in which there will be more checks than balances, the power of political party leaders will be emasculated while party candidates will no longer be nominated by the base.

A longer-term aim can be defined: to restructure Turkish society by bringing new blood into its traditional one or, at least, preventing the old one from monopolising power.

The new law dissolving political parties and creating the new political parties is a step towards creating a new political class.

Another recent law which would give the autonomy of Turkey's 18 universities has a similar purpose. It bars university professors from joining political parties and thus sets a link between

Generals foster an elite for democracy

From Mario Modiano, Ankara

Turkey's ruling generals have opted for a tightly regulated "democracy" as a cure for the country's political malaise. They are trying to entrust its implementation only to those who share their views.

Their first step was to commission the drafting of the new constitution to an appointed Consultative Assembly which is also to become a breeding ground for new politicians. It consists of 160 members chosen for their moderation and loyalty.

The new constitution will spring from second thoughts on how the crises, dilemmas, and deadlocks that bedevilled Turkey before the coup, could have been averted.

A preview of the new constitutional model was given by General Kenan Evren, the military leader, when he inaugurated the Assembly. He declared: "The state cannot be left weak for the sake of individual freedoms."

General Evren told the assembly that they did not need to take into consideration any other constitutional models. The guidelines he offered them provided for a president with effective powers, a strong executive and a strong legislature, all supported by two many judicial constraints, and a parliament free of extremists.

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Another recent law which would give the autonomy of Turkey's 18 universities has a similar purpose. It bars university professors from joining political parties and thus sets a link between

academic life and politics that has existed since the creation of the republic in 1923.

The effort to change the basic social structure is also sensed by the deposed politicians who believe that the experiment is fraught with danger. One of them told me: "When the normal democratic channels, such as parties, associations, and trade unions are closed, society is forced either to total submission or to unbridled and disorderly explosions, as has happened in Iran."

This leading politician who must, in the circumstances, remain anonymous, expressed shock at General Evren's recent suggestion that the *mukhtar*, the village headman, should no longer be elected but appointed.

He said: "The *mukhtar* is the living cell of democracy. He has been traditionally elected since Ottoman times, even before any laws provided for it. If a regime cannot accept this, we cannot look forward even to a modest beginning of a democratic system."

The feelings in Turkey today are that even when the Army returns to barracks its control of the civilisation will continue in one form or another.

For one thing, it is taken for granted that General Evren himself will be elected President of the Republic when the new constitution comes into force. Most of the new state bodies set up by the regime in 1980 are headed by officers of the Turkish general staff.

At the special audit committee which will be set up to audit the accounts of the government departments, the military is directly involved. The head of state will have very wide powers to select.

In the 14 months since the coup, much of the country's political life has been dominated by the military. The generals have been busy in reducing terrorism to manageable dimensions.

Letter from Tunis

Bourguiba's crusade for women's rights

Mr Ben Chérif Essad, the Tunisian Foreign Minister, tells me that Tunisia is the only country with Islam as its state religion where polygamy is against the law.

One of the first things President Habib Bourguiba did when his country became independent a quarter of a century ago was to initiate sweeping legislation to free his country's women from their former second-class citizenship. Nor has he been content to allow women's rights to exist simply in legal theory but has followed up with measures giving practical application to the original intent.

Equal pay for equal work is now applied not only in government but in the private sector — and most surprising of all, in agriculture. In most African and Arab states this is a field of activity where women do are derisively rewarded for their pains.

President Bourguiba's most recent move was to introduce the equivalent of maintenance so Tunisian men are today much more chary of going through the Islamic divorce process, *talak*, than they were a few years ago.

No woman is a minister in the Government, though Mrs Faika Farouk became the first woman ambassador and was sent to London, an odd, "a gesture of respect" to Mrs Thatcher whom President Bourguiba is reputed to admire.

Several are prominent in the civil service but they still feel themselves exposed to minority and one of them told me: "We know that the President is backing us but there are five or six men working with me that I know want my job. So I just work harder than they do, until midnight if necessary."

Tunisia's "grande dame" is without question Mrs Wassila Bourguiba, the President's wife, a plump, jolly and humorous lady who is not only very active in many social causes but is influential behind the scenes in politics. A government official, even a minister, who incurs her displeasure has landed himself with quite a problem.

President of the Tunisian Union of Women is Mrs Fethia Ben Ali, who has been a minister in the government before her husband, Mr Mohammed Mzali, was named Prime Minister last year.

In this month's legislative elections, when the government was backed to a crushing victory, the *As-sa'at* of

which even its own supporters found it hard to believe, President Bourguiba has stayed clear of the fray, leaving the job of leading the ruling party's campaign to Mr Mzali.

Mr Mzali, who is widely credited here with guiding the liberalisation process which has at least left Tunisia with a much freer and more interesting press, certainly gave the impression that he was taking Tunisia's first multi-party elections in 22 years seriously.

His main campaign plank was the government's economic record, of which the country has much reason to be proud, and so even the point home he dashed around the country, inside and outside the capital, to look at the situation as it looked as if he was trying to do for a prime ministerial entry in the Guinness Book of Records, because on that day he managed to address three public meetings, give several press interviews and open two textile factories, a toy factory, a school, a plastics factory, a brickworks, and a chicken hatchery, and a plant producing yogurt.

President Bourguiba obviously reads the newly-freed press and watches and listens to the state radio and television, which also carry reports of his activities.

A few months ago it was reported that girls at a handicraft school were having to spend their late day break sitting about in draughty corridors, waiting for a set of keys which would open the school's locked doors to their facilities.

President Bourguiba, deciding that this was scandalous, announced that until the school was provided with catering facilities, about 100 of them would come and have lunch with him at the palace in Carthage.

The hall room was converted into a canteen and the girls were given lunch, money for their school uniforms, and even a small amount of pocket money.

Though they and the President, to judge from the television reports, enjoyed all this luxury, the girls were clearly only too glad to have the opportunity to go to school, and perhaps making their own beds for the first time.

Godfrey Morrison

MINE WIVES PROTEST IN LA PAZ

From Our Correspondent La Paz, Nov 24

Twenty women and two men who started a hunger strike in La Paz said today that they will remain in the offices of the Roman Catholic Archbishop and the United Nations refugee office "until the final consequences" unless President Celso Toranzo Villal's military government releases miners who were arrested during a strike in southern Bolivia.

"We are willing to fast out," the women said in this statement, "but we will not begin yesterday. They are mostly the wives of union leaders and miners, about 740, who were arrested two weeks ago over a government refusal to recognise their union."

Yesterday President Toranzo said he had ordered Colonel Romulo Merino, the interior minister, to solve this problem in the most expeditious manner through dialogue.

Maputo and Lisbon heal rift

From Our Correspondent Maputo, Nov 24

Six years after Mozambique became independent from Lisbon, President Samora Machel of Portugal has received an enthusiastic welcome from the people of Mozambique. An emotional meeting with President Machel marked the end of the political rift that has separated Portugal from one of its most militant former colonies.

President Machel stepped from his aircraft to the sound of 20,000 shots and a chorus of thousands of cheering Mozambicans. President Machel and his wife, Maria, and Long Live Portuguese-Mozambique Cooperation. He embraced the Mozambican President before reviewing a military band and a group of national guards.

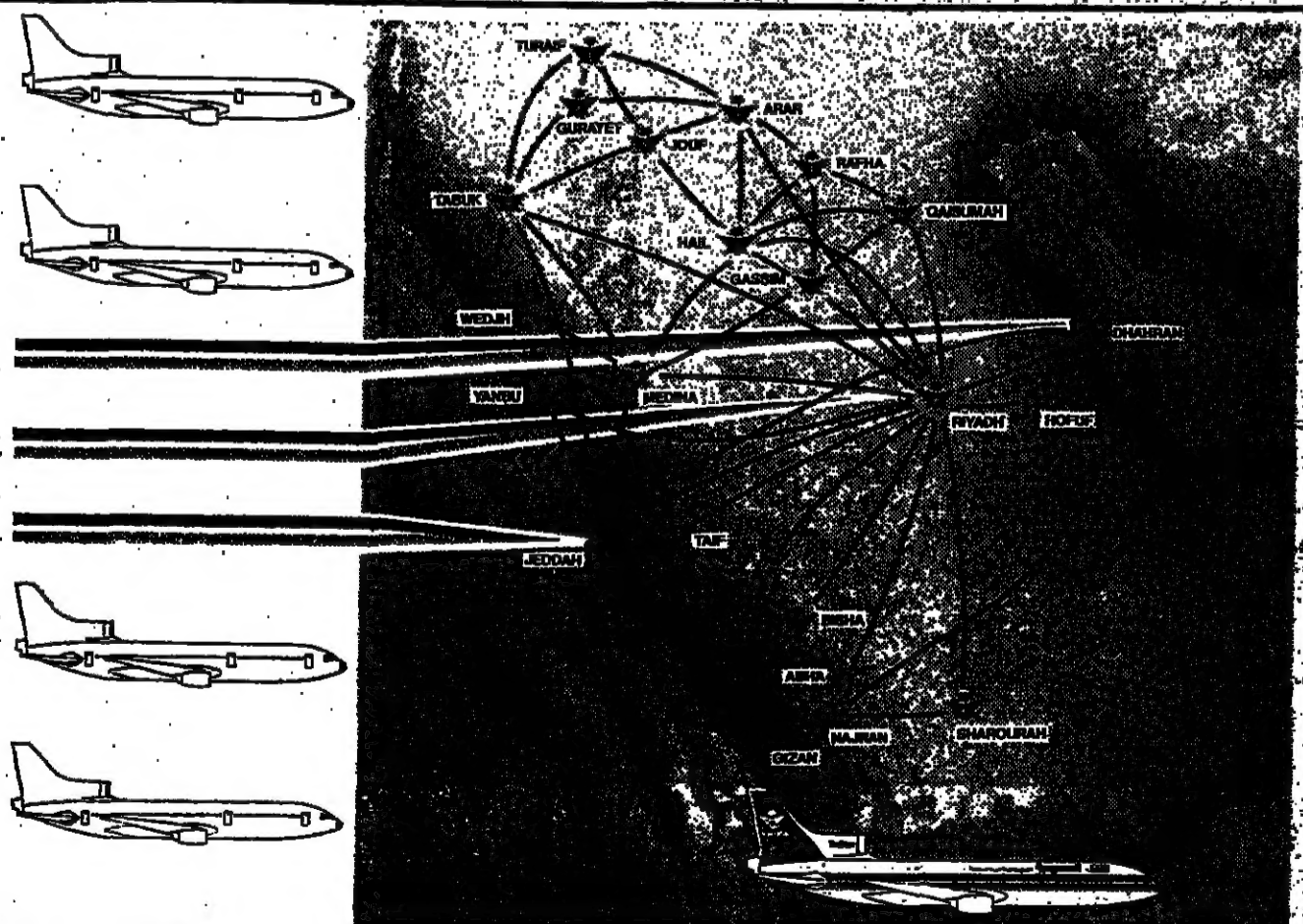
He later had a speech on the Forum of Friendship, Peace, where he said that the Portuguese colonial wars were ended, including Eduardo Mondlane, founder of Frelimo, the ruling party.

Since Mozambique won independence from Portugal in June 1976, a long guerrilla struggle, relations between the two countries have been tense. One reason for this was the Portuguese exodus from Mozambique: metropolitan whites with professional skills departed en masse, taking whatever riches they could with them.

Today Mozambique is asking the Portuguese to return, as technicians and as investors. President Machel's aircraft carried representatives from 30 Portuguese companies, as well as Senator Andre Gouveia, Pereira, Foreign Minister, and four secretaries of state.

Correction

In a report on Monday on demonstrations in Bonn it was stated that Social Democrats were called for balanced disarmament and attacked the "top-down" rearmament by the Soviet Union. Social Democrats did not participate in the demonstration and this reference should have been to the Christian Democrats.



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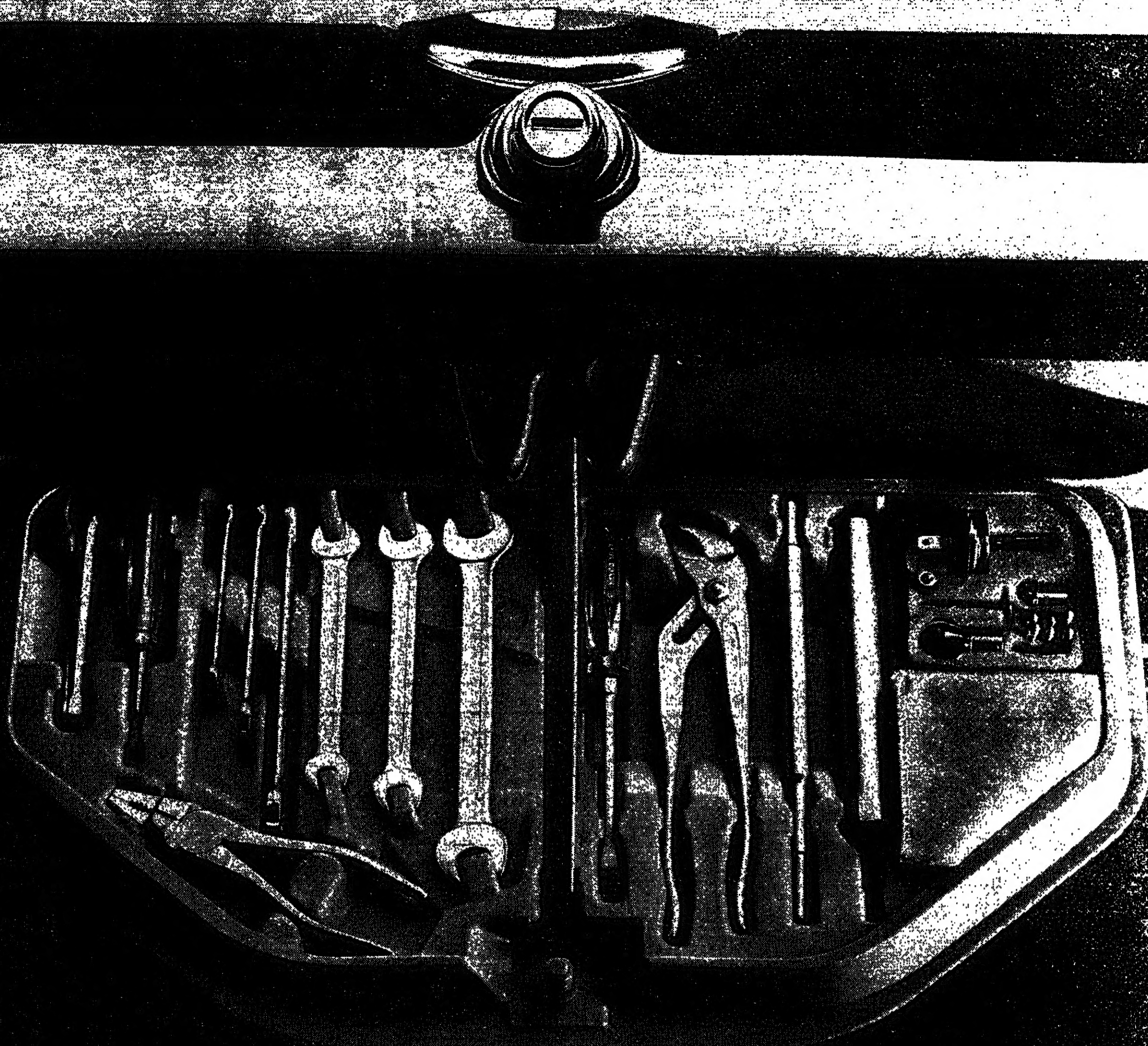
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PARLIAMENT November 24 1981

Prison crisis: Hailsham says judges not thwarting reform

HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor and the Earl of Longford became involved in sharp exchanges in the House of Lords over the report in the Sunday Times of last Sunday which stated that judges and magistrates had thwarted a penal reform proposed by the Home Secretary which would have dramatically reduced the number of prisoners in the country's overcrowded jails.

After Lord Longford had made the same point, the Lord Chancellor said there was not a word of truth in it. It was an allegation which might never have been made.

The clash came when Lord Longford (Lab) asked what steps the Government was taking to deal with the grave situation revealed in a letter from Mr John McCarthy, Governor of Wormwood Scrubs prison, published in the Times on November 13.

In the letter Mr McCarthy wrote that he was "manager of a large penal institution", and that he could no longer tolerate "the inhumanity of the system in which I work". Lord Longford, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that in developing the policy to be set out in the Criminal Justice Bill, he had introduced "shortly" the Home Secretary (Mr Walters) had had clearly in mind the need to reinforce the trend towards shorter sentences.

The Earl of Longford (Lab) described the letter as perhaps the most startling in living memory. He said when he read it he assumed the Government would be called upon to resign or that he had resigned already but he was glad that had not happened. Instead, there had been widespread support for his views almost everywhere.

The Governor had since threatened to resign if some action were not taken and the Home Secretary could not shirk his responsibilities by responding to the Governor's letter in clear words and urgent action.

There was general agreement that something drastic had to be done, but there was no agreement as yet on what form that action should take. He hoped this would be clarified.

Several proposals had come from the Home Secretary but it

could be that he had had to give way under pressure from the judiciary at all sorts of levels.

Whatever the precise solution or combination of solutions, democratic government in this country was carried out through Parliament whose views were expressed through the cabinet and, in the area of prisons, through the Home Secretary of the day. The will of the people must prevail in a democracy. It is wrong that the Home Secretary should be thwarted at the second hand by the judiciary (he said) at all levels. The judiciary are respected custodians of legal standards in this country. They are not people who never place themselves above the law. Lord Hailsham: There is no truth in the suggestion that the judiciary did thwart the Home Secretary or had power to do so. I have been at pains to discount that since reading the article in the Sunday Times and his view that the judiciary could disregard the view of Parliament is repugnant and there is no word of truth in it.

Lord Longford: There is not a word of truth in the words and observations of the Lord Chancellor. Lord Hailsham: I do not know on what authority he has to say that. There is no truth whatsoever that the judiciary had any desire whatever to thwart the will of Parliament. I deeply regret that the Home Secretary should be questioned in that matter.

The judiciary were consulted and expressed their views as they were entitled to do, but they accept the sovereignty of Parliament and it is wrong to say the judiciary are not to be trusted. I am sure when I say on my word of honour that it is untrue.

Lord Longford: I have been challenged but what is the source for the Home Secretary's statement? The truth is that the Home Secretary is being persuaded by the judiciary, contrary to the will of Parliament. Lord Hailsham: It is a question of fact not opinion. The judiciary are entitled to express a view and the Home Secretary is entitled to consult the judiciary. The judiciary are entitled to express their opinion when consulted and to suggest to the Home Secretary that he should take a particular line. Lord Longford: I am seeking to thwart the will of Parliament. I am wholly untrue and I have been at great pains to discount that.

It is an allegation which ought never to have been made. It is a question of fact and not of opinion.

Lord Longford said the facts were in the sentences being passed by judges. It was in this way that the judiciary were thwarting the will of the people. If the Lord Chancellor was happy about that, then so be it. Lord Hailsham said Lord Longford was now changing his line. He was now talking of a plan on which the judiciary had been consulted and had expressed their opinion.

But the idea that they were thwarting the will of the people and the Home Secretary and Parliament (he said) is entirely wrong and it ought never to have been made. Now he is making a totally different allegation which is also totally untrue. Parliament lays down the maximum sentences for certain offences and the judiciary decide on the facts of the particular case, what is the appropriate sentence.

This attack on the judges is wholly untrue and ought to be withdrawn. Lord Longford said that he saw no reason to withdraw what he had said and he would repeat every word of it.

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chairman of the Parole Board, and a Treasury Minister, preferred Mr Leon Brittan.

The agenda should be simple: proposals within two weeks should be put forward to reduce the prison population by 5,000 and there should be proposals within four weeks to maintain the prison population within the level of the certified normal accommodation laid down for each institution.

Governments must surely have advised the Home Office that the prison population of 4,000 remained prisoners should be got out of prison. Sites were available and private enterprise could erect new prisons. It was not weeks two and three months that the Home Secretary was to be asked to do so.

One of the main causes for the appalling situation in prisons was the inability of the judiciary to understand that shorter sentences must be passed.

The one solution which should be brought in at once was supervised early release.

Lord Soper (Lab) said that he shared the desperation indicated by the Governor in his letter. Any word said to do all three.

Six new prisons were to be started between this year and 1984, with further plans planned, including the reconstruction of over 60 existing prisons during the 1980s, which constituted a substantial programme.

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up to a maximum of three consecutive years.

Lord Longford was right in pointing out the overriding need to reduce the prison population if the imbalance was to be rectified. That was the Government's position, reiterated many times by the Home Secretary.

The great majority of the prison population consisted of sentenced prisoners who were there because their actions were dangerous to the community.

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Legal to blow own trumpet

SCOTLAND

Many parts of the Borgh Police (Scotland) Act were obsolete and anachronistic and bore little relation to the present structure and functions of local government.

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It is an allegation which ought never to have been made. It is a question of fact and not of opinion.

Lord Longford said the facts were in the sentences being passed by judges. It was in this way that the judiciary were thwarting the will of the people. If the Lord Chancellor was happy about that, then so be it.

Lord Hailsham said Lord Longford was now changing his line. He was now talking of a plan on which the judiciary had been consulted and had expressed their opinion.

One of the main causes for the appalling situation in prisons was the inability of the judiciary to understand that shorter sentences must be passed.

The one solution which should be brought in at once was supervised early release.

Lord Soper (Lab) said that he shared the desperation indicated by the Governor in his letter. Any word said to do all three.

Six new prisons were to be started between this year and 1984, with further plans planned, including the reconstruction of over 60 existing prisons during the 1980s, which constituted a substantial programme.

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Small drop in jobless welcomed

COMMONS

Welcoming the small reduction in the numbers registered as unemployed, the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said that it would take a long time before this country could begin to return to the much lower level of figures to which it was accustomed.

Mr Ian Evans (Aberdeen, Lab) asked: Does the Prime Minister recall the poster by Saatchi and Saatchi used in the last election with an illustration of a queue and the words underneath: "Is Labour working?"

Does she think Conservatism is working in view of the fact that unemployment is still hovering on the three million mark and, with YOP and other schemes, is nearer four million?

Mrs Thatcher: Unemployment is rising in all the OECD countries, with the exception of Japan and Denmark—in Germany, France, Belgium and all the others because of the world recession. That is still causing great trouble in all countries with their unemployment figures.

There is a reduction in the numbers registered as unemployed, in particular a reduction in the numbers of school leavers. It is small, but it is welcome.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edinburgh, Lab): When she talks of improvement in the unemployment figures does she not acknowledge that this is only in comparison with the terrible and unprecedented figures achieved by her administration?

Is it not the fact that the underlying trend is tragically still going upwards? Have not the figures increased by a total of 200,000 since she was saying that we had passed the bottom of the trough of the recession, or whatever it was, a few days ago?

Mrs Thatcher: It always takes much longer for the unemployment figures to fall after the increase in production than for many of the other indicators to start to go the right way. That is the well known but tragic fact. It is still spare capacity in a number of industries and there must be an increase in productivity before there can be a substantial reduction in unemployment.

Nevertheless the small reduction today of some 35,000 people is welcome. There is still an underlying increase but that is less than it has been. We have to face the fact that the economy is still in a state of recession and it will take time to bring an increase.

Mr Foot: She claims to be studying these figures carefully. When is there to be any reversal of the figures on the scale of the 200,000

increase since the middle of this year? It is still continuing and the underlying trend is still getting worse. When are these figures going to turn the other way?

Mrs Thatcher: I accept the advice he gave when he was answering unemployment questions from this side of the House. He did not forecast it precisely in the future.

Unemployment is rising in Germany, France and all over the OECD with the exception of Japan and Denmark. Tragically also it will take a long time before we can begin to get back to the much lower level of figures to which we have been accustomed.

Later Mrs Thatcher said, in answer to a question about the use of redundancy payments, that some 150,000 new businesses had been started this year.

This (she added) demonstrates that the spirit of enterprise is still very much alive. (Conservative cheer.)

Action on rates promised by Mrs Thatcher

The Green Paper on the alternatives to the domestic rating system should be out next month, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said, in a statement made at a question time.

She pointed out, amid protest from Labour MPs, that the revenue from the present rating system, if it were re-

formed would have to be replaced by revenue from elsewhere.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C) called upon the Prime Minister to consider the fairness of the rating system.

There is an increasing impatience on the Conservative benches (he said) over the consultation paper on the alternatives to the domestic rating system. This consultation paper should be a short, quick step radically to reform the rating system by a Bill in this Parliament. (Conservative cheer.)

Mrs Thatcher: I share Mr Chapman's views, and so does the Government, about the unfairness of the rating system. The Green Paper should be out next month. We shall then go into a period of consultation. On the speed of that will depend whether we can bring forward a Bill which I think it would be advisable if we could do, in the present Parliament.

Mr John Farr (Harborough, C): Such an announcement on the rating system would be received throughout the country with great and overwhelming support. (Cheer.)

Mrs Thatcher: I hope that is correct. I would have to make it clear that the revenue which comes in from the rating system, both the domestic and the industrial, commercial and agricultural, would have to be replaced by revenue elsewhere. (Labour, cries of "Oh.")

One cannot have expenditure which is not covered by taxation.

Doctors get kit to help smokers

HEALTH

Every family doctor had recently received from the Health Education Authority a special kit designed to help doctors advise their patients on giving up smoking. (Conservative cheer.)

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West, Conservative, C) asked her: How long has it been Government policy to penalise people for giving up smoking?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not smoke, I do not answer for opinions in my household on any particular thing. I would not give my own view on this.

Mr Sheila Faith (Belper, C) had asked him to put greater emphasis on the family doctor's role in his anti-smoking campaign in view of the council's finding that 90 per cent of patients stopped smoking when advised to do so by their doctor.

The death rate from lung cancer and heart disease was greater here than in other countries. Would he encourage doctors to distribute their information kits to patients if doctors refused to give up smoking?

Mr Fowler: Smoking is a danger to health and my aim is to reduce the toll of disease and death caused by smoking. I would not give up smoking.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent, South, Lab): Is the Government going to give way to the pressures and blackmail of the tobacco industry and accept a statutory control over advertising if voluntary effort fails?

It is time to ban advertising about smoking cigarettes, including the television sponsorships of smoking, because of the ill-effects on the health of the nation.

Mr Fowler: There has been no change in Government policy on smoking. Successive governments

have preferred voluntary agreements and we are now examining these agreements. No decisions have yet been taken.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Conservative, C) should reject some of the advice given today. If we point out the dangers of smoking, it is not part of the Government's job to continue to try to be granular on every issue. Let us leave people alone for once. There are sufficient reasons for intelligent people.

Mr Fowler: There is a responsibility on health ministers to give advice on the dangers of smoking. I will continue to give it.

During questions to the Prime Minister, Mr John Hume (Belfast, Lab) said: There is widespread speculation in the Prime Minister's household about tobacco tax. (Conservative cheer.)

Mrs Thatcher: I do not smoke, I do not answer for opinions in my household on any particular thing. I would not give my own view on this.

Chalker: Thrift not penalized

SOCIAL SECURITY

A denial that the Government was penalizing thrift in taking people's savings into account when applying for supplementary benefit was made today by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West, Conservative, C) asked her: How long has it been Government policy to penalise people for giving up smoking?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not smoke, I do not answer for opinions in my household on any particular thing. I would not give my own view on this.

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Statement on death grants

The Government would make a statement in the future of the death grant before Christmas, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said. She added that the Government was most reluctant to impose upon anyone a means test at the time of bereavement.

Mr James Dempsey (Coventry, Conservative, C) asked her: When will the Government make a statement on the death grant? (Conservative cheer.)

Mrs Thatcher: I do not smoke, I do not answer for opinions in my household on any particular thing. I would not give my own view on this.

Mr Fowler: There is a responsibility on health ministers to give advice on the dangers of smoking. I will continue to give it.

Out with the Brixton police and a profile of Lord Scarman on the day he reports on the riots

On patrol with 'pig in the middle'

Five sets of eyes stare, more frightened than hostile, from black faces, and one from white, in the poorly-ventilated cells and detention rooms behind the communications room, the fingerprinting and photographing room, the doctors' examination room and the area (no room was provided) where detainees are charged. The blacks have been charged with various forms of robbery and theft — no area in Britain has a higher rate of mugging, predominantly of white females by young black males — the white man in connection with a haul of 400-odd stolen bicycles.

Inspector Jane Folan, the duty officer, takes a series of decisions with impressive speed and accuracy in her strong accent. Meanwhile a ceaseless trickle of the public comes to the counter of the main room, which is manned by two young PCs under a sergeant. There is a pretty black girl wanting to stand bail for her brother; people of all hues bringing in car documents missing when they were stopped, others on bail signing the relevant register.

Behind where I am, pretending to be invisible, a shelf-full of ledgers gives an idea of the range of the police's concerns: "limited inquiries" (not much to be done, for example wives abandoning husbands or vice versa); "occurrences", including sudden death, attempted suicide, damage done by police when forcibly entering PCs injured in the street; "incidents" ranging from bomb hoaxes to dog bites; and a "stop book" for all those stopped in the street — where, why, when.

Confusingly, Brixton police station houses not only the divisional police force, consisting essentially of 267 uniformed officers and 27 CID men, but also the superstructure of L District, under Commander Brian Fairbairn, whose impoverished kingdom of 10.6 square miles and 250,000 souls (roughly a quarter "ethnics" or descendants) in the jargon) also embraces Streatham, Clapham and Kennington.

On the first floor is the canteen, the offices of the 36-man L District robbery squad, and some administrative offices; on the second, those of Brixton's own Chief Superintendent Bob Marshall, his deputies, and the CID; on the third, Commander Fairbairn, his deputies, and the L District CID Chief.

Two days there sharpens appreciation of the police's peculiar situation. Esteemed by the silent majority, but reviled by activists of many persuasions, they can easily come to see themselves as under-appreciated oasis of order and discipline in a sea of indifference, hostility and active nastiness. "We are really pig in the middle," said Commander Fairbairn, a man of considerable bonhomie and humour who was felled by a brick in the riots, but rose to lead his men again. "We are the visible sign of anything that goes wrong with society," said Chief Superintendent Bob Marshall, a lean, handsome 41-year-old.

The risks of going in

One of the chief aims of the police at Brixton is to prevent the spread, or worsening, of the lawlessness prevailing in Rattton Road. Although there is a "no-go" area it is in parts a "no-enter" area. The police say they know that various crimes and offences are being committed in a small group of seedy houses and "chips" there. Drugs, they believe, are being used and sold; spirits illegally dispensed; stolen goods, including some mugs, being sold, divided up and sold. But they cannot go in without risk to their lives, if few in number, or the danger of causing a riot, if they enter in strength.

Commander Fairbairn described to me a potentially very serious incident of two nights earlier. Two constables in an area car had chased one of a group of black youths who had been rifling clothes from Burton's the tailors, in the High Street. The youth they focussed on had sought refuge in a club over a car-hire firm in Atlantic Road. They went in after him, and he jumped out of a rear window. They could not at first get out, but eventually apprehended him.

By then some 200 blacks had assembled. Police reinforcements arrived, to be greeted by bottles and bricks. One policeman's knee was injured. Fairbairn called off his men, deeming the risks disproportionate to the offences.

In that sort of climate it is hard not to feel some sympathy for Superintendent Finlay MacLennan, the district community liaison officer for more than two years. A soft-spoken Highland Scot, he describes himself as the link man between the police and the community.

Roger Berthoud

Lord Scarman was asking Lord Hailsham the other day how he should brace himself for the public attention which will accompany the publication of his report into the Brixton riots. The highlight would be switched off after about three days, the two men agreed. Then he could retire to his customary obscurity.

He recommended this with a suspicion of a grin: he will not disappear and he is not even likely to try. Almost in the same breath, he said that although he had not accepted any speaking engagements for this year, he has already been booked for several in 1982. Whatever his report may say, it will not just speak for itself; it sets off a debate, the author intends to be on the platform.

He has always been an advocate. He has enjoyed being a judge more than a barrister, but he has combined it with a steady championing of politico-legal causes. Although his part in the Northern Ireland, Red Lion Square and Grunwick inquiries has cast him in the public mind as the neutral saviour for the consciences of governments, there is a political animal just underneath the judges robes.

He enjoys talking and does so with charm. He works in a small and simple office upstairs in the House of Lords, accompanied by the death rattle of "Queen Victoria's" central heating. Like many lawyers, he keeps pace with work by starting early, sometimes at 4 am. "I agree with Gladstone that no man really needs more than four hours sleep a night," although I usually get more. He and his wife live in a Knightsbridge flat; he can be glimpsed buying groceries in Harrods. As a young man he played the E flat trombone, but his musical interests now centre on opera: he likes Mozart and Verdi and, with reservations, Wagner. There is something missing, he said, in a day on which he hears no music.

The hero whose example propelled him towards the Bar was not a Lord Chief Justice or a famous Old Bailey QC, but that political advocate Lloyd George. "It sounds very dated now, but as a schoolboy I was inspired by his career and image. I was fascinated by the art of advocacy and I still am. At that age I had no thought of becoming a judge. Judges meant no more to me or my family than they do to any ordinary person."

His father began work as an insurance clerk and worked his way up to become a partner of his firm; the young Leslie was brought up in Streatham, moving later to the Surrey-Sussex border as Scarman senior grew more prosperous. The prosperity was spent on educating his children: Leslie went to Radley and onwards to Balliol College, Oxford, with the aid of a scholarship. "I was always a hard worker; I made up in industry what I lacked in talent."

He was called to the Bar in 1936 and spent three years as a "briefless barrister" before being called up; his legal career was not really to begin until he was demobbed in January 1946. The interruption was not welcome at the time, but turned out to be a "blessing in disguise."

"This is the terrible thing about war for some people it can be stimulating and broadening experience. That is no case for me, but just to say that I drew from it things that could not have been learnt any other way. It makes me think that we need to revise higher education to give people a broad-based



Lord Scarman among friends: '125 out of 100 for public relations'

What makes this judge the one to sort out the mess

experience of mankind, which it nowadays doesn't always provide."

The first two years gave no clue of what was to follow. He went into the administration and special duties branch of the RAF and after two years behind a desk in Abingdon was made a staff officer in North Africa.

He was soon attached to the Mediterranean Air Command-in-Chief, Arthur (later Lord) Tedder, whom he followed to Sicily, Italy, and Northern Europe. It was a friendship which continued until Tedder's death. Scarman wrote parts of his huge report on the 1969 Belfast and Londonderry riots in a caravan on the Hebridean island of Uist which Tedder had used as a wartime headquarters.

He was in the room when General Jodl surrendered to Eisenhower at Rheims.

As he returned to his old chambers, social and political changes were giving birth to new law and it was there that Scarman found his opportunity. "Mainstream administrative law was the modern opportunity for a lawyer. People thought, and still do, that the exciting stuff is libel and crime. The real quality of advocacy is the cross-examination of expert witnesses, which I have always enjoyed. You have to acquire sufficient expertise to probe for their weaknesses; every expert has a weakness — you just have to find it."

His hobbies were architecture and music. He took a case in Worthing defending the existence of a "very charming Regency house" whose site was coveted by a

developer. He succeeded and the house still stands. He built up a substantial planning practice and a sideline in aircraft accident inquiries.

He was 49 when the invitation to ascend to the bench arrived; another barrister elevated the same day was one John Widgery QC, later Lord Chief Justice. To his surprise, Scarman was told that if he accepted, he would do divorce and probate cases, an area of law he knew little about. He was to do it for only four years, starting a lifelong interest in family law and judging the longest probate case ever heard. It lasted 91 working days, and the judgment ran to 24,000 words; one party took out a £300,000 insurance policy in the case the judge died and the case had to be heard all over again.

Religious instinct is very deep

In 1965 he was made chairman of the newly created Law Commission, a body charged by the equally new Labour Government with the job of straightening the tangle of law assembled piecemeal over centuries and with making some much-needed reforms. In the legal world, it may be Scarman's monument: even his critics concede that it was an inspired appointment which simultaneously succeeded in allaying the fears of Conservatives who saw it as subversive and at the same time proposing reforms which were carried through on to the statute book and have stayed there.

Not all the changes were technical: the 1969 Divorce Reform Act, which revolutionized the basis for both divorce and the distribution of assets, was largely the work of the commission. Since Scarman left it in 1972, it has never had the same influence or momentum.

He was already doing a unique, quasi-judicial job and enjoying promoting the commission's ideas at any available opportunity. It was this willingness to move in the outside world and the talent for public relations which distinguished him from other judges when a beleaguered James Callaghan looked for a man to head the tribunal investigating the Northern Irish disturbances in the summer of 1969.

He was told that it might be a six-week job and it took three years; he continued as chairman of the Law Commission. He took a house on the County Down coast at Bangor and his wife and poodle moved there with him. Lady Scarman enrolled at a technical college in East Belfast to brush up her French and German. As he arrived at Alder Grove airport on his first visit, he was asked a question by a waiting journalist for which he thought he had prepared.

"Are you a Protestant or a Catholic?" "Neither. I'm an agnostic." "That's not good enough. Are you a Protestant agnostic or a Catholic agnostic?" "I was flummoxed. Well, no, I was entertained. The journalist won." I asked him if he had any religious belief and it was the only moment at which the confidently articulate flow slowed almost

to silence. "That's a very difficult question", he said, staring out of the window and proceeded to give the following carefully considered answer after a short pause to look up "agnostic" in a dictionary. "I don't believe in personal immortality. I'm a theist, not an atheist. I'm not against religion; my own religious instinct is very deep, but it's not institutional in any way at all. I don't believe there's such a thing as a man without religion, although I recognize the logical possibility that God does not exist. I was baptized Church of England of course."

His job in Northern Ireland was to convince the Catholic community that he was worth talking to and that his conclusions were worth hearing. He began deploying the arts of stage management which were to be called on again. He organizes in advance the effects of every thing from the layout of the desks to the type of ushers and how they should behave. Watching him open the Brixton Inquiry, it was clear that he had rehearsed for most contingencies and deftly by-passed the snags which did crop up.

His attentive courtesy towards witnesses occasionally left irritated men in its wake at Brixton. His procedure sometimes made it impossible for the police to cross-examine witnesses alleging police misbehaviour. One such witness gave his evidence without challenge and was profusely thanked by Scarman for his pains. Policemen present muffled their protests that the man's motives could have borne some examination; according to them, he was one of the most active brothel-keepers in south London with a lengthy criminal record to match.

By the time the Northern Ireland report appeared in 1972, it was instant history without much relevance to the present. It is, however, the work Scarman has done and he would like to be judged by. Its purpose and achievement were "the killing of myth and preventing the growth of legend. But you can't say more than that. Nobody reads it of course except in Northern Ireland."

Throughout the seventies, there was speculation that he would succeed Lord Denning as Master of the Rolls, but Denning, appointed before compulsory retirement rules were made, hung on. The idea appeared finally dead when Scarman was elevated from the Court of Appeal, to which he had gone in 1972, to the Lords to become Baron Scarman of Quatt in the County of Salop.

From the early seventies, he took a leading part in the debate over whether Britain should have a Bill of Rights to guarantee certain fundamental principles which could not be overturned even by Parliament, or only in exceptional circumstances. In one of his seminal Hamlyn lectures on the subject, he asked Cromwell: "Of what assurance is a law to prevent so great a right as the same legislature to unmake it again?" He says that on each occasion we are found wanting at Strasbourg, something better than reluctant, piecemeal adjustment is essential for Britain to fulfil its obligations to the European Convention on Human Rights.

It is a view of the constitution which, as its critics immediately pointed out, would shift power towards the hands of the judges, who will wield the

influence invested in the American Supreme Court. Scarman issues emphatic invitations to his audience to trust judges. He thinks that a decade will see a new constitutional settlement on these lines.

Scarman is often assessed as a "left-wing" judge; taking it as a relative term and comparing him to the rest of the judiciary, there is some truth in it. The nearest he has come to a frank description of his political view was to say that it is "without using capital letters 'liberal and radical'". His critics on the far left and far right label him a "limousine liberal".

But what really distinguishes him from many of his colleagues is his view of the judge's political role. He does not mind being summoned to sort out sensitive political messes resulting in breakdowns of public order, because judges are part of the "overall apparatus of government". His opponents are the judges who think that courtroom oratory is one thing, but press interviews quite another, who believe that lawyers should confine themselves to being legal technicians and who relish appearing by magic on their courtroom thrones, reaching them by special corridors designed to keep them separate from the public.

The men Scarman picks as good examples of what he likes to see are men with whom he cannot share every political belief. "Being a judge used to be thought of as an isolated life. I have always thought that judges should be more exposed to public life and it's happening with men like Hailsham and Denning, to take two of the best examples, who are prepared to expose themselves, warts and all. Occasionally one says something silly but not often."

'Too committed to particular views'

There is more than a touch of vanity in this remark and at the very least a powerful self-assurance which qualifies the image of Scarman as a flexible listener. His every word at the opening of the Brixton hearings suggested that he had made up his mind that the police had misunderstood and undervalued the idea of "sensitive" policing. "I'm not sure that he is the quintessential judge," said one lawyer who has watched him frequently. "He is not quite the detached figure scrupulously weighing every ounce of evidence as he hears it. He's much too committed to particular views. But in terms of public relations at Brixton, I'd give him 125 out of 100."

Whatever the reaction to the Brixton report, Scarman's lanky figure will stride off to whatever comes next. He quoted a piece of advice tendered by his Scottish mother: "Leslie, always look forwards, never backwards." He has been asked to write memoirs, but regards it as something to be left until he is too feeble to do anything else. That time has not yet come. He is now 70 and in five years time will retire as a judge and sit as a member of the House of Lords, which he says should make "a stimulating interest for one's old age."

He will be released from the judge's vow of political silence and I said that I had the impression he might enjoy that. He smiled a huge smile. "I make no comment."

George Brock

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Winter, but no retreat for the Poles

The winter is closing in on Poland. Long queues stretch into the grey, freezing drizzle. Lines of cars, often empty, wait for scarce petrol. The shops are sparsely stocked or empty, and even ration cards go unheeded. When the power goes off in multi-storey blocks there is no heat, no light, and no water. To wait six or seven hours in a queue is not unusual.

Yet nobody I met on a recent visit wanted to put the clock back to the old system, so discredited has it become. Of course there are people in the apparatus still trying to restore it but for most ordinary people, and for many in the party itself, the new freedoms acquired over the past year are still sufficiently hopeful to compensate for hardship. "In the long run," said one, "there is no bread without freedom because economic reform demands political reform."

Nevertheless, the immediate future remains highly uncertain. It is generally assumed that the Russians will not intervene unless there is civil war or an attempt to abandon socialism altogether and leave the Warsaw Pact. But as the economy spirals downwards and frustration grows nothing can be wholly excluded. Significantly, perhaps, party organs have been asking Hungary for archive material on the uprising of 1956. The best that can be said is that disaster is not inevitable. There is just a chance of putting together sufficient agreement to hold the peace until reforms begin to work.

The most immediate problem is that the old governing apparatus is in an advanced state of decomposition. Even the police in some areas are more or less laying down their batons and flourishing petty crime to flourish, complaining that they are unable to arrest anyone for fear of provoking a riot. The party itself is deeply demoralized. At the lower levels its members are drifting away or waiting to see which way the wind is going to blow. Higher up there are serious differences over policy. The democratically elected party congress in the summer achieved nothing except to bring in a lot of inexperienced people elected largely because of their lack of association with the past. It did not change the administrative apparatus of the party, much of which remains entrenched in stubborn fear of the future.

Meanwhile the public remains totally sceptical of anything the Government does. As one of its opponents said recently, if the Government were sud-



Empty shelves and patience in a Polish grocer's... a queue for food that often is not there

denly to lay a golden egg everybody would say it was not an egg, not golden and not laid by the Government. Against this unpromising background the Government is trying to put through a series of far-reaching reforms, including freedom of travel and a new economic system inspired partly by the limited market mechanisms of Hungary and partly by the industrial self-management of Yugoslavia. Some of the reforms are likely to be unpopular at first, and will anyway take a long time to bring results, especially if the new system is run by the old apparatus.

Support for new measures

It is therefore clear to most senior people that there is no hope of success unless the Government can win support for new measures from more representative bodies than itself, such as the Church and Solidarity. Hence the historic meeting between General Jaruzelski, who still combines the jobs of First Secretary, Prime Minister, and Defence Minister, Mr. Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, and Cardinal Glemp, the Polish Primate. This has now been followed by a series of meetings with Solidarity. But there is still no clear concept on either side, nor agreement between the two, on what new structures are possible. Senior party men speak of the need for 10 years of restructuring.

Some government people are believed ready to accept real power sharing. But Mr. Stefan Olszowski, the powerful party secretary responsible for the media, said in a recent speech that the party would never agree to coalition government. He spoke instead of a special commission composed of "political parties" and all social forces to draw up a programme of national agreement. Vice-Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski, on the reformist wing, also said recently that the Democratic Party and the Peasant Party, which until recently had only nominal identities of their own, should now join with women's and youth organizations in a new body designed to reconstruct the relationship between society and authority.

"The party cannot remain a lonely wanderer on the Polish plains," he said, "it must traverse them together with the whole nation, and the nation must be convinced that the march is in the right direction. This means that the era of ruling by command has gone forever." But in spite of his sincerity, his recipe looks to some people suspiciously like a mere revival of the old Front of National Unity, a phoney grouping of supposedly representative bodies under communist domination. Solidarity's response is only partly worked out. Some of its leaders would probably be willing to share power but others fear that this would be the beginning of the end of independence. Solidarity was

formed as a defensive body to represent the workers and check the actions of the Government. It is not an initiating body. But since there is now scarcely any government left, and since it is pointless to press for higher pay when there is nothing to buy, Solidarity is being sucked into sharing responsibility.

Powers in the party

Its more moderate members accept this as necessary, at a time of national crisis but they are wary. They point out that the reforms have not yet reached the point of no return. There are still powerful forces in the party waiting for the opportunity to claw back lost authority and destroy Solidarity. Therefore Solidarity's support must be conditional. Among other things it wants safeguards such as an independent judiciary, access to the media and industrial self-management. Meanwhile it is thinking in terms of some kind of council of trustees, eminent people who would enjoy public trust and have access to government information as well as to the media. They would give up their "seal of approval" on government measures. But there is a lot of disagreement and disorganization in Solidarity; sometimes it looks like one vast, turbulent student meeting.

This makes it very difficult for the authorities to get agreement on specific measures. At the top there are splits over principles and personalities, and a lot of criticism of Mr. Walesa. At the grass roots there is more support for Mr. Walesa but also, paradoxically, a huge proliferation of radical demands, with reckless young men elbowing their way into prominence. In some regions there is growing support for the nationalist and anti-Russian Confederation for Independent Poland, which was conspicuous at the recent independence day celebrations.

Yet just to confuse the picture there is also a lot of weariness. According to the polls, 24 per cent of Solidarity members would welcome a suspension of the right to strike. Solidarity leaders have got this message and regard the strike weapon as a diminishing asset. But they are far from having full control, and find themselves giving token support to strikes they do not really like in order to retain credit for the moment when they may be called upon to avert a national breakdown.

This leaves only two coherent power structures in the country, the Church and the army. The Church cannot govern, and is anxious not to absorb them. It helped to organize, yet while the larger long-term problems are being discussed it would be worth looking more closely at short-term palliatives of this sort. Otherwise, the chance of long-term reforms may be lost altogether.

Richard Davy

Henry Fairlie Another cross for Reagan

For most of last week, there was a convention at the Capital Hilton, which is hardly unusual. Men greeted each other in the lobbies as jovially as those who go to conventions always do. But it was not the same as if the American Legion or the Masters had come to town. The men who slumped each other on the back were all wearing black bibs in front. Some even wore a pectoral cross.

Two hundred and seventy bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States were holding their annual meeting here. These are some 50 million Catholics in this country, far the largest Catholic community in the world. From day to day, the bishops made news.

They denounced the present American government for supplying arms to El Salvador, and extended their criticisms to American policy in the rest of Central America. They amplified their opposition to the nuclear arms race, in terms which seem to some to endorse unilateral disarmament. They adopted a strongly phrased pastoral letter calling for a "just and humane national health policy".

The growing militancy of the hierarchy on social and political issues has been apparent for many years. It leads many Catholic laymen to talk of the "ever-widening gap between the individual Catholic and his cloistered and detached church leadership". The Democratic Party leader in the House, Mr. Tip O'Neill, has called the hierarchy a "blue-collar constituency". Is the Roman Catholic hierarchy also losing touch with its own identical flock?

A character in the novel, *The Vicar of Christ*, said of the American bishops: "More of them are peasants, not dear chap, removed by only one generation, in most cases, from the bilges of the immigrant ships." The bishops who assembled here last week, although spruce in their suits and white clerical collars, were in effect at that description. The history of the Church here is bound up with the successive waves of immigration.

As first the Germans and the Irish, and then the Italians and the Slavs, were pumped on shore from the bilges, the church did much to absorb them. It helped to nationalize them in the new country, while holding them in the faith of the Old World. Its success in this stupendous task was acknowledged in 1968, when Pope Paul VI removed the American Church from the jurisdiction of the congregation *De propaganda fide*.

In spite of persistent discrimination against it, the Church had become a vital national institution, whose "fourishing youthfulness" wrote Pope John XXIII in 1962. "Cheer up heart and fill it with delight," its flock then were mainly the immigrants crowded into cities. Its flock now are largely the blue-collar descendants of those immigrants. It is not surprising that its social gospel has usually been vigorously progressive.

The greatest single figure whom the church in America has produced, James Cardinal Gibbons, writing to the Holy See in 1887, emphasized the proletarian character of most of those composing it. The bold pastoral letter on health care which was approved last week therefore made it the strongest and most persistent tradition.

But the American church is now tending a third wave of immigrants. The flood of Spanish-speaking people who are pouring in from Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and Central America are as poor

and even more predominantly Catholic than their predecessors. Even if it were for no other reason, the Church would be bound to be concerned with what goes on in their homelands, as Polish Americans are concerned about Poland.

When the papal delegate to the United States, Archbishop Jan Jozef, transferred Bishop Edward A. McCarthy in 1977, from Phoenix, Arizona, to Miami, Florida, it was because of the large Cuban community in Miami, and the Bishop's high reputation among the Hispanics in Arizona. The Catholic Church here cannot be understood unless it is realized how much of its growing strength now lies among the Spanish-speaking immigrants.

The main missionary work of the American Church overseas, moreover, is now carried out not by the nations of Central America. The work is dangerous, especially in El Salvador. Lay workers and nuns, even an archbishop, have been murdered. This missionary work also has the specific endorsement of the encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*, which John Paul II addressed to the problems of developing countries.

The attitude of the hierarchy on Central America is therefore as understandable as its attitude on social questions. But its increasingly strong opposition to American participation in the nuclear arms race is a different matter. More than 50 archbishops and bishops here are now members of Pax Christi, the international peace organization. A year ago, only 29 belonged.

Only one of the 29 bishops endorsed a statement of the inter-community centre for peace and justice, which said baldly: "The possession of nuclear weapons is wrong."

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, who last week came from the bishops' committee on war and peace, called for a "positive theology of peace", and asked that the pastoral letter on the subject should take account of pacifist teaching.

So one could go on. The strength of this movement among the hierarchy may have many causes. Ultimately they can be traced back to one which is often overlooked. Forced into open opposition to the present stance on abortion, the bishops have found that this opposition makes ripples. Defending the sanctity of human life in all its stages, they are finding it more and more difficult to justify war.

Not only nuclear war, it must be emphasized, but even war itself. It would take too long to find a bishop here last week who believes that there can now be a just war. It is this support of the right to life of the unborn child which is also driving the Church into its more unpopular stance on social questions. Whatever one may say of the bishops' new militancy, there is no doubt that to them it is (theological) coherent.

You can't support the right to life of an unborn child," said a Catholic politician in Maryland some time ago, "without wondering how strongly you support every one's right to dignity and life. The abused child, the poor, the prisoners in death row, the sick, the driving force behind the legislation which the bishops passed last week. But will the workers in Amariello give up their jobs in a weapons factory in support of this opposition?"

The bishops are leading but will the flock follow? And meanwhile, Reagan has the fundamentalists.

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The strike weapon that Tebbit withheld

by Anthony Frodsham

What is needed is a change in the law to allow employers during a strike to be relieved from having to pay employees for whom they cannot provide work

Those looking for a hard line in industrial relations law have been disappointed by Norman Tebbit's plans for trade union reform. Members of the Engineering Employers' Federation, however, were not anxious to see a new act outlawing the closed shop and making collective agreements legally binding. And we welcome the Government's decision to continue its step-by-step approach.

But the proposals have one important omission: a lay-off clause which would help redress the balance between organized labour and employers.

Over the years unions have acquired the ability which they now see as their right — to cause extensive inconvenience to large sections of the community at little or no cost to themselves. One increasingly common way to do this is to withdraw a small number of people — such as computer operators — from critical functions. In this way

a union's members with an interest in the outcome of a dispute can continue to report for work, thus maintaining their own pay and thereby, should they wish, finance a small number of striking colleagues. For example, staff employees generally enjoy the right to be paid as long as they are available to perform their ordinary work — even if, because of industrial action, there is no work for them to do. The obligation to maintain the pay of those who are not on strike greatly weakens the employer's financial position and often forces him to terminate the strike on unfavourable terms. With the dice so loaded against him, the employer is faced with the dangerous choice of engaging in an expensive industrial dispute or of making an appeasing settlement which will soon cause difficulties elsewhere in his company.

The solution to this problem need not involve exposing

as gas, water, electricity and transport.

The harm of a major strike in the public sector is not just that it makes life intolerable for the general public, but also that it can ruin private employers. When such a strike occurs, an employer generally has to pay his employees while being unable to produce goods for sale. If he closes his business by giving notice to his employees, he will face heavy redundancy payments. He could try to persuade his employees to accept a variation of their contracts of employment which would reduce or suspend their pay, but that is clearly not easy to do.

What is needed is a change in the law to allow employers in such circumstances to be relieved from having to pay employees for whom they are unable to provide work. Again, there would need to be a substantial supplier of goods or essential services — such

as gas, water, electricity and transport. The harm of a major strike in the public sector is not just that it makes life intolerable for the general public, but also that it can ruin private employers. When such a strike occurs, an employer generally has to pay his employees while being unable to produce goods for sale. If he closes his business by giving notice to his employees, he will face heavy redundancy payments. He could try to persuade his employees to accept a variation of their contracts of employment which would reduce or suspend their pay, but that is clearly not easy to do.

Both these remedies for establishing a fairer balance

in the industrial relations system were put forward by the Engineering Employers' Federation, when responding to the Green Paper on Trade Union Immunities. The knowledge that disruption of the economy caused by industrial action by one section of employees could result in the suspension without pay of their workmates would greatly discourage irresponsible militancy.

Similarly, opposition from their own non-striking members should really reduce the power of union leaders to destroy national wealth by dislocating monopoly public undertakings. Admittedly such radical steps would need a new attitude in the law of contract. Their practical benefit would be enormous in moderating hasty strike calls without creating a new class of trade union martyr.

The author is Director-General of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

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In war, in peace you need his help

A donation, a covenant, a legacy to
THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
will help soldiers ex-soldiers and their families in distress
DEPT. TT, DUKE OF YORKS HQ, LONDON SW5 4SP

High cost of the V & A's closed shop

Two reasons for gloom, I hear at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Here we are almost at the end of November and Dr Roy Strong, the museum's director, has still not received notification of his knighthood. Dr Strong affects disinterest in such gongs, but given his reaction when Sir Michael Levey, director of the National Gallery, was knighted in January this year, his colleagues know better. More important for the rest of us, I am told that there is a silly impasse over the shop being built in the new Cole building, an annex to the museum, which will have its main entrance in Exhibition Road. The building, named after Sir Henry Cole, first director of the V & A, will be connected to the main museum but otherwise is intended as a self-contained gallery of paintings, drawings, prints and photographs. The problem with the shop appears to stem from the fact that the V & A is a Government-owned museum rather than a trustee establishment. As a result, the installation of the shop, costing about £30,000, has been given the go-ahead by the Department of the Environment, but its staffing has been vetoed by the Department of Education and Science. So when the new building opens in March next year it will feature a brand-new shop, permanently closed.

Farewell Jocelyn

Yesterday morning, Mr Jocelyn Stevens, deputy chairman and

THE TIMES DIARY

Non-smokers like me have to make up their sin quota in other ways — and my preference is for drinking. I follow that about this time of the year I always get very interested in, not to mention familiar with, hangovers. I gather from Clement Freud's book on the subject that the English word for a hangover is actually American but he also includes a number of international versions.

Managing director of Express Newspapers, had a word with the woman who organizes the boardroom lunches at the Daily Express. "There's a farewell party tonight," he said, "about 100 people." He was leaving she asked: "Who's it for?" "Me," said Stevens, whereupon the woman burst into tears.

Stevens is popular with the workforce. His sacking may or may not improve the Express's sagging fortunes (see story on page 1) but in the watering holes of Fleet Street the more immediate question is how it will affect the flickering warfare that has recently broken out between the Daily Mail and the Express who are, of course, joint proprietors of *The Standard*. That partnership led to an official truce between the two papers, long halts to sniping at each other. But for some reason as yet unfathomed by Fleet Street Kremlinologists new bickering broke out at the beginning of this

some of which make the morning after sound even worse:

France: *Couille de bois* Woodenthrout
Sweden: *Baksmälla* Kickback
Germany: *Katerjammer* Walling of cats
Poland: *Kokielnic* Walling of chickens

I can add to this the Australian word "GGGrrrrraaaaaa" which is translated as "Breath like a wallaby's armpit." Readers can do better. I am sure so a bottle of the usual for the best description of a hangover in whatever language.

On November 9 the Mail carried an item alleging that Lord (Victor) Matthews, head of Trafalgar House, had demanded the return of the company car originally awarded to Sir Max Aitken when his company took over Beaverbrook Newspapers in 1977.

Then, on November 12, the Express published an acidic full-page review of Mail diarist Nigel Dempster's biography of Princess Margaret — by Stevens himself. Dempster told me yesterday he is issuing writs and seeking "injunctive damages".

On the same day, the William Hickey column in the Express published an article "revealing" that Lord Rothermere's daughter, Geraldine, was pregnant when she married Lord Ogilvy in May. Rothermere is, of course, chairman and chief executive of Associated Newspapers, owners of the Daily Mail.

To Rothermere these must have seemed massive reprisals for the initial Dempster paragraph, and

city's rather a relief to find such a common little man with such unspeakable right-wing views...



hostilities seem to have been resumed on all fronts.

Yesterday the Mail's diary described the Express as a "tawdry bingo sheet" and described its new William Hickey as "boring the remaining readers with 11 turgid paragraphs" on "Part of Fleet Street's decline may have to do with this predilection for writing about itself (which I am now doing, so I had better stop)."

Bearable humour

For all his recent ill-health, President Brezhnev, now in West

Germany, has not lost his heavy Russian humour. The Soviet leader, 74, who left Moscow in snow, evidently found Bonn's mild autumn weather to his liking and turned up at the Chancellery bareheaded and without a coat. As he stepped out of his Mercedes he found 62-year-old Helmut Schmidt, his host, in a coat and his famous necktie hanging out.

"What," said Mr Brezhnev, "I'm older than you and I'm not wearing a coat." Whereupon the Chancellor promptly took off his coat and cap as the band struck up with the national hymn.

Krays' return

Robert Duval, the American star of *True Confessions*, is to collaborate with Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who, in a new film, *McVicar*, on the life of the infamous East End twins, Reggie and Ronnie Krays. Duval says he is fascinated by "brutal, competitive people" like the Krays and is apparently willing to spend up to six months in Soho and east London "to get the accent right". He wants to play Ronnie, and would like Reggie to be played by Bob Hoskins, who starred as Ronnie Krays in a stage musical called *England, England* which ran in London for six weeks. Most recently, Hoskins played a tough cockney villain in *The Long Good Friday*, opposite Helen Mirren. Duval, who will co-produce the film, is already studying a provisional script.

The Krays, now 48, both got life in March 1969 for gangland killings and sundry other pastimes.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

MR HESELTINE'S HALF MEASURE

It is clear by now that the Government cannot proceed with the Local Government Finance Bill in its present form. It has aroused too much opposition on Mr Heseltine's side of the House, let alone the other. The bill's plan for a local referendum whenever a council wishes to levy a supplementary rate are objectionable on constitutional and practical grounds and will have to be dropped. The question that the Government must consider now is whether to find a new way-head for the bill, or abandon it and prepare a better calculated offensive for a later date.

In a Commons debate earlier this month Mr Heseltine meditated openly about possible alternative ways of preventing obstinate overspenders from squeezing their ratepayers unrestrained. He suggested that a council could be required to seek immediate re-election if it sought a supplementary rate on top of an initial rate confined by a ceiling set by the Government. This would avoid the undesirable constitutional precedent of a binding referendum on a routine issue, but in terms of real local accountability it would hardly be an improvement. Policy-making on a local or national scale becomes impossible if the whole electorate has to be ingratiated every year. The most prudent councils would be tempted to levy the initial rate right up to the limit, for fear of being forced into an election by unforeseen circumstances.

Mr Heseltine's other thoughts sounded hardly more attractive. He proposed

that the right to levy a supplementary rate might be made conditional on Parliamentary approval in each case. It is easy to envisage how much Westminster time would be wasted by such a procedure, and how little serious scrutiny the actual circumstances of each case would receive. His proposal simply to abolish supplementary rates, requiring overspending councils to borrow their way through the year, would have an immediate effect on public sector borrowing which a levy on ratepayers does not.

The truth is that there is no satisfactory way of achieving the purpose of the Bill. Obliging individual councils to raise no more in rates than the Government thinks they ought contradicts local accountability. Anyway, the signs are plain in London, at least, that councillors are rediscovering a healthy respect for the ratepayer's feelings. In terms of national housekeeping the excess expenditure the Bill is aimed at is not large. If it is aimed at the extravagance of only a few councils, as the Minister maintains, its effect on overall public expenditure will be scarcely dramatic; and since the money spent is money raised in tax it would have no direct inflationary impact.

The Government is already committed to yet another Bill on rating after this one. It cannot be wise now to launch so dubious a measure in so complex an area for such limited gains for one season only. Far better to retire gracefully and throw the Government's energies into

the fully-considered radical reform of local finance which is now so plainly needed.

The principles on which such a reform should be based are that local revenue should come far closer to paying for local services, and that the local electorate should correspond more closely with the list of those liable for local taxation. The defects of domestic rating from both points of view can be overstated. The level of rates in an area affects the pockets of far more than those who pay them directly. The case for a property tax of some kind in Britain is strong, and no tax is better fitted for local operation. Local sales tax, whose yield would be too slight by itself, might be used to supplement a reformed rating system. The old question of local income tax must be examined again, though heavier taxes on earnings is a move in the wrong direction.

Alternatively councils will have to shed responsibilities to bring their discretionary spending closer to what their resources can sustain. Teachers' salaries, which are fixed nationally but account for a quarter of all rate fund expenditure, are an obvious possibility. The Layfield report in 1976 rejected this course because it might eventually impair a real and significant local discretion over education. No doubt the risk exists, but now that local discretion in all sectors is threatened with rapid decline to a national level, it may be necessary to sacrifice one aspect of it in order to secure the rest.

THE FAHD PLAN AT FEZ

Why is it that the goals scored in the endless diplomatic football match between the Arabs and Israel, are almost invariably own goals? Both sides seem set to provide us with choice examples this week, each converting what might have been a significant success into something very like a disaster.

The decision of four West European countries to commit troops to the proposed multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai may be considered symbolic, in terms of the number of men involved, but what it symbolizes is important, namely the willingness of the Western world in general, rather than just the United States, to endorse and underwrite the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. That is something which Israel should value, irrespective of the views of the governments concerned on the ultimate settlement of the wider Middle East conflict. Moreover, the agreement of the four governments to participate is the fruit of a considerable diplomatic effort on the part of the United States. If the Israeli government now decides to veto European participation (as Mr Shamir hinted yesterday that it will), it will hardly improve its already shaky standing with the Reagan administration.

The Arab opponents of the Camp David process, however, seem to be about to put the ball into their own net with even more devastating effect. Ever since 1978 they

have been explaining to their friends in the West that they were not against peace, as such, but only against this particular peace because it isolated Egypt from the rest of the world and imposed unacceptable conditions on the Palestinians. A true, comprehensive peace, they said, in which the Palestinians could play their part through their only legitimate representative, the PLO, would be quite a different matter. Good, said their friends, but if you want us to convince the United States government of that (which we must do if we are to have any hope of getting Israel to accept it), you cannot confine yourselves to rejecting Camp David: you must put forward a positive, alternative proposal.

This autumn it seemed that that was at last about to happen. Prince Fahd produced his eight points — essentially a recapitulation of Arab demands endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, but including, as point seven, the crucial principle that "all states in the region should be able to live in peace". Did that include Israel? Yes, said Prince Fahd in substance three weeks ago, provided that also included the independent Palestinian state mentioned in point six.

The Saudi leaders at that time seemed confident that they could get the eight points endorsed by the Arab summit conference which opens today in Fez, and go on from there to try and set up a new framework of nego-

tiations through the UN. This confidence was based mainly on the enthusiastic support of the PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, who according to some was actually a co-author of the "Fahd plan". Imagine therefore the chagrin of Prince Fahd when, at the preparatory meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Fez, on Sunday night, the PLO representative, Mr Fawzi Qaddumi, came out firmly against the plan.

The Palestinians continue to insist that recognition of Israel is their "only card", which they cannot afford to give away for nothing. Yet the Fahd plan was designed precisely to be conditional: it would allow Israel to live in peace if, and only if, Israel is willing to accept withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state. Of course Israel does not accept those conditions. Far from it. But if she is not even offered a peaceful existence in exchange, how can anyone ever hope to change her mind? Obviously there are people in Beirut and in Damascus and Baghdad, who do not really want that change. But should they not spare a thought for the families in the West Bank whose houses are being blown up for the students whose universities have been closed, for the young men and women forced to emigrate for lack of skilled jobs in their own country, for the farmers deprived of land and water by Israeli settlers? Couldn't they, just for once, give peace a chance?

FREE VOTE FOR CROSBY

The judgment to be exercised by voters at a by-election is very different from that at a general election. Then they have to decide which party they would prefer to form the government for the next five years. It is true that over the past thirty years an increasing proportion of the electorate has been using even general elections as occasions for protests of one kind or another. But for most voters every other consideration is subordinate to the central question of who is to govern Britain.

At a by-election, however, other factors predominate. The existence of a government is not at stake. Voters are free to consider which party ought to have its representation strengthened in the House of Commons, and which candidate would be most likely to make a parliamentary contribution of distinction. On those grounds the case for supporting Mrs Shirley Williams at Crosby tomorrow is a strong one. The voters do not have to decide whether they would like a Social Democratic government, but whether they would like an extra Social Democrat

in the House of Commons. Indeed, they have to decide whether there should be for the first time a Social Democratic member of Parliament elected as such.

Equally, the voters do not have to determine tomorrow whether Mrs Williams would make a good Prime Minister, or even whether she would be the best leader of her party, rather whether she has more to contribute to Parliament than the other candidates at Crosby. The distinction is particularly important in this instance because Mrs Williams's capacities are considerable but uneven. Few politicians today are her equal at charming an audience, whether at a public meeting, on television or in person on the doorstep. She has a remarkable eloquence that depends partly on her facility with words and partly on her ability to convey both earnestness and strength of feeling. She is not humorous or witty, but she does seem to understand the anxieties and aspirations of most of those to whom she speaks. She is thoughtful without being decisive. These are not qualities that

would be likely to make her an effective party leader. Her judgment is not so good as her intentions. She lacks the necessary power of decision and would tend to shrink from the unpopular acts that are required of someone who is to lead any party with success, especially a party that is embarked on such a daring enterprise as the Social Democrats. If he is available — which means if he has been returned to the House of Commons by the time the parliamentary leader is elected — Mr Roy Jenkins would bring more political weight and authority to the role. It is well known that he would be the choice of the party's MPs.

But Mrs Williams nonetheless has a great deal to contribute to the party and to Parliament. It is hard to think of any other politician today who can inspire the warmth and trust that she does. Her party will be the stronger and political life in this country will be healthier if she is once again in the House of Commons — good enough reasons for the voters of Crosby to send her there tomorrow.

Violence as pointer to racial impasse

From Professor Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, Professor John Hutchinson's letter, to which you give prominence today (November 21) under the above heading, surely presents a highly tendentious interpretation and dangerously misleading commentary upon Henry Fabre's article (November 18) reporting his mugging in "pleasant midtown" Washington DC, and his subsequent reflections.

Crimes of violence can affect emotions and precipitate a change in attitude towards another group: many cases have been recorded, ranging from inter-racial murders to inter-racial assaults of a minor kind. But individuals of different racial background have been victims as well as assailants. It is wholly absurd even to suggest that it is a one-way process involving "black" aggressors and non-black sufferers. And it is heartening to observe how many victims of violence firmly reject any "racial" or ethnic cause — including national, sectarian, cultural etc. Despite Professor Hutchinson's opening sentence that the "revolting" capacity of the "revolting" victims have remained admirably clear, their humane understanding and compassion have triumphed.

So far as Britain is concerned, I find statements of the following kind unwarrantably alarmist: (1) "perhaps most critical of all, the ignoring of the signalled likelihood of an alliance between black anger, the jocular strike, the terrorist capacity and the revolutionary purpose"; (2) "We have a duty to entertain publicly and systematically the possibility that the problem of the inner-city black... is insoluble by means customary to the free society"; "there is evidently no chance that either of the two major 'solutions' proposed — assisted 'remigration' or ethnic relief, each on historic scale — will be applied".

There are indeed very real and serious urban problems. These have been amplified by violence as well as privately for decades by a wide range of academic workers as well as by those engaged directly in public affairs.

Sustained, self-critical attention has long been given not only to responsible research and enquiry, but also to the consideration of carefully defined constructive remedies, large-scale and small-scale. No vast and vague "solutions" have been agreed or imposed, nor is such agreement or imposition likely in our still free society. I believe that this is not least by colleagues of the stature of late G. D. H. Cole and Eric Stokes, that there are distinctive or peculiar British ways of getting around, albeit slowly, to perceiving and acting constructively in our particular democracy.

I believe that this is not occurring in the fields of education, policing, housing, representation and the like, though formidable problems, not least in employment, remain.

Yours truly,

KENNETH KIRKWOOD,

Rhodes Professor of Race Relations,

St Antony's College, Oxford,

November 21.

University cuts

From Professor T. P. Wiseman

Sir, Amid the controversy over the university cuts it seems to be taken for granted that higher education is defensible only in so far as it offers vocational training, and the rest is frivolous.

The two instances (November 18) of the two interviews BBC Radio offered on the day of the AUT (Association of University Teachers) lobby of Parliament were with a representative of Conservative students, who referred contemptuously to "Mickey Mouse" courses (unspecified, but evidently to be distinguished from vocational ones), and the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, whose defence to the system was that three quarters of university graduates are trained for something specific: "the other quarter", he said airily, "go into journalism or politics".

All those who teach or study the humanities are familiar with the uncomprehending question, "What's the good of it?", but it is depressing to find the incomprehension so widespread, even in the universities themselves. What the study of languages, history and literature does, when rigorously taught at university level, is to train the student in the collection and evaluation of evidence, to teach him to understand the civilization in which he lives, to give him an insight into societies and value-systems alien to his own, and to provide a short cut towards that experience of the multiplicity of human affairs without which we are condemned to dogma and cantation.

Even — or especially — in these grim times, an education system that aims at producing citizens who are rational, sceptical, tolerant and humane does not deserve to be dismissed as frivolous. And at a practical level adaptability and an open mind are likely to be at least as employable in a changing world as "vocational" skills which may be obsolete within a decade.

Of course we need more and better engineers, but it is not only for them that the universities must be defended. Yours faithfully, T. P. WISEMAN, University of Exeter, Department of Classics, Queen's Building, The Queen's Drive, Exeter, November 18.

British budget priorities in the EEC

From Mr Geoff Harris

Sir, Britain has frequently faced the charge of misusing the bus with regard to political developments in Europe, but your leader of November 21 suggests that it is possible to miss the bus even when, as President in office of Council, we are in the driver's seat.

You refer to the three main topics at the forthcoming European Council meetings as budget, contribution, and the development of non-agricultural policies. This list reflects the narrow obsessions of part of the British political establishment rather than the real concerns of the Community, which are two-fold. Firstly, what effective measures can be undertaken to combat rising unemployment and regional inequality which threaten so much damage to the political fabric of democracy in western Europe and could imperil the whole process of European integration? Secondly, what contribution can Europe make to peace in Europe itself and in the Middle East, and at global level through the North-South dialogue?

It is in this context that the figures in the budget must be analysed. In May 1980 a deal was made, in an inadequate deal from all points of view, primarily because it dealt with the effects rather than the causes of the EEC's unbalanced budget. Since then, however, massive reductions (over 10%) in European currency units in CAP expenditure have taken place and it has become clear that Britain's rebate was calculated on an over-estimate of its likely contributions. This context provides everyone with the opportunity to undertake the review of the budget in a calmer manner, without the threat of expenditure outstripping revenue even though this remains one of the provisions for reform.

Your list of issues for the summit therefore looks at the problem from precisely the

wrong direction. Britain has been remarkably unresponsive to proposals to expand expenditure on regional, social and industrial policies which would benefit her most and would help to reduce her net budget contributions. The French Socialist Government's proposals to revive the Community have this as its centrepiece. Moreover Britain has not itself apparently made any proposals for CAP reform, but has helped undermine support for the Commission's package which contains two vital elements, namely alignment of EEC and world prices, and taxes on surplus produce.

A lasting solution to the British budget problem must be a solution which fits in with the interests and the needs of the Community as a whole and represents a political advance for all member states and institutions. In one sense at least you are right: a lot more is at stake than British *amour propre*. The failure of British political leaders to connect our genuine budget problem with our more general political interest in a more effective Community working for peace and full employment could prove an expensive political error. Most of the governments of the Community are member states which include Socialists and Social Democrats (apart from the UK and Luxembourg) are working on these lines. It will be a great pity if, with such a high level of unemployment and such strong interest in peace and international cooperation, Britain fails to make its own political contribution and in doing so hinders its chance of getting a genuine and lasting reform of the Community Budget and of developing a European Community more in line with the needs of all its citizens.

Yours etc, GEOFF HARRIS, Socialist Group Secretariat, 97 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels, November 23.

National Insurance

From the Director of the Low Pay Unit

Sir, Your leading article (November 19) attributes much of the increase in taxation since 1979 to the rise in National Insurance contributions. You suggest that the Government should "recognize National Insurance contributions for what they are: a disguised tax, and merge the contribution system".

Such a proposal has much to commend it. The contributions are now a major source of revenue, raising 60 per cent as much as income tax, and more than VAT. Yet taxpayers may feel they are getting poor value for money.

While the contributions to the National Insurance scheme have increased, the benefits which they are supposed to finance have been cut. Moreover, the financial base of the scheme is unacceptably regressive. Taking income tax and contributions together, the combined marginal tax rate for those earning as little as £27 a week is now 38p in the pound — higher than that faced by someone earning £240 a week, or nine times as much.

The scheme affects part-time workers particularly harshly, since contributions become payable, by both employer and workers, on all earnings once those earnings exceed £27. Part-timers receiving a small pay rise which takes them beyond the threshold may find themselves

worse off as a result. Meanwhile employers have a real incentive to reduce wage rates or hours (or both) to ensure that the threshold is not breached. We are aware of cases in which employers have replaced full-timers with part-timers to reduce their contributions.

There are many employees who are paying substantial amounts into the National Insurance scheme but whose contribution record is never sufficient to entitle them to claim any benefit from that scheme should they find themselves in need. For all these reasons, fundamental reform of the scheme is now urgent. Employees' contributions should be abolished as a separate and regressive tax, and the revenue collected through the income tax system. Eligibility to benefits should be related to need (arising from unemployment, sickness or old age) and residence, rather than to contributions.

The employers' contributions, which are a serious burden for many small firms, should be replaced with a separate social security payroll tax related not to the earnings of individual workers but to the total wage bill, with appropriate exemptions and reduced rates for small firms, and with provision for companies to reclaim that proportion of the tax paid on labour costs associated with goods for export.

Yours faithfully, CHRIS POND, Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, W1.

Civil Service reforms

From Mr Peter Jay

Sir, Mr Peter Kellner (November 19), regrettably agreeing to the terms of his own embarrassment, complains that I have accused him of "no specific factual error" in his deplorable article (November 13) on the demise of the Civil Service Department. Since my principal criticisms were of errors "merely" of judgment, analysis, logic, ethics and taste and since his article contained almost no strictly factual non-emotive assertions, beyond commonplace banalities, I am inclined to ask, "So what?"

As to the accuracy of my recollection of what Lord Fulton told me on the day of the publication of his report in 1968, namely that the recommendation for the creation of the CSD was included on the instructions of the then Prime Minister, I can

only repeat that my memory is absolutely clear, indeed vivid. I respect, of course, the sincerity of Lord Fulton's non-recollection of the event (letter of November 17).

As the man of the hour speaking to a mere reporter he would hardly be likely to have been as unforgettably impressed by the exchange as I was. For such an instruction to have been explicitly passed on to the members of a supposedly independent inquiry is so improbable that Lord Crowther-Hunt's unawareness (letter, November 18) of the fact is neither surprising nor significant, though his judgement that his former paper's co-author, Mr Kellner, has misdiagnosed the failure of the CSD comes from an impressive authority.

Yours, etc, PETER JAY, Garrick Club, WC2.

Premenstrual tension

From Dr G. I. M. Super

Sir, The extraordinary publicity lavished upon premenstrual tension by all forms of news media during the past two weeks as a result of the two trials in which this condition was advanced as an extenuation, if not an excuse for serious crimes, and the two letters from your correspondents published today (November 19) prompt me to add my comments.

During these two weeks Women's Health Concern has had something approaching two thousand inquiries, by letter and by personal call, on this subject, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction with the largely negative attitude extending to Frank deBellet, taken by many of my medical colleagues to what is undoubtedly a common and disturbing condition. Though, as my very old friend Dr Raymond Greene points out, the precise cause of premenstrual symptoms is unknown, effective treatments (not exclusively progesterone, which doesn't always work) can be used in the great majority of cases and so: there is little justification for the large numbers of improperly treated or untreated women sufferers. No greater disservice could be done to those who experience

serious premenstrual symptoms than for its reality to be rejected because it has achieved the notoriety of being the female criminal's perfect excuse. It is pertinent to point out that, in the case of one of the two recent defendants, though the plea may have led to mitigation of sentence, it was rejected as a defence by the jury who found her guilty of the charges. In both cases the evidence showed constructive actions by the defendants leading up to the offences committed and the idea that under the influence of premenstrual tension these sufferers behaved in a manner wholly outside their control, thereby providing justification, is simply untenable.

Sympathy for women experiencing premenstrual symptoms, their proper treatment by doctors, more research by workers such as Professor Taylor and Dr Brush at St Thomas's Hospital — all these are much to be desired. They will not be achieved, if premenstrual tension becomes accepted as an excuse for serious female crime by the law because it will be rejected by the public. Yours faithfully, G. I. M. SWYER, Chairman, Women's Health Concern, 16 Seymour Street, W1, November 19.

Social Democrats and education

From Mr M. St. J. Parker

Sir, Michael McCrum's plea (feature November 18) for clarification of SDP policy on education has already been answered, directly or indirectly, by Mr Tyrrell Burgess (letter, November 19) and Dr John Rae (November 21). No doubt there is more enlightenment on the way; given the present state of the SDP, you may expect to hear from a regular plethora of spokesmen, advisers, and experts on education, especially while the sound of the Crosby by-election is still ringing in our ears.

Indeed, the noises made by the new party at the moment sometimes give one the uneasy feeling that the whole enterprise is run by, and staged for the benefit of, a collection of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses.

It is therefore, completely naive and absurd of this particular schoolmaster to express a hope that the SDP will, in fact, resist the temptation to produce a massively detailed education policy full of unrealistic schemes and unfulfilled promises; that they will recognize that schools reflect society's values rather than creating them, and will accordingly refrain from manipulating the education system for purposes of social engineering; and that they will pay due heed to that part of our liberal tradition which lays stress on the dangers inherent in a situation where the State exercises monopoly control over the schools?

In short, dare one ask the SDP and its partners to quit kicking the educational football?

Even as I ask the question, I am afraid I know the answer: politicians will always think they know best. But what a surge of support there would be for a party that dared to acknowledge its limitations!

Yours faithfully, M. St. J. PARKER, Headmaster, Abingdon School, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, November 23.

Prison complaints

From Mr David Evans

Sir, In his letter to you (November 14) Mr Martin Wright exhorts that safeguards for inmates must be improved by abolishing the rule by which a prisoner may be punished for a complaint against an officer if it is considered "false and malicious". He goes on to state that "Prison officers should follow the Police Federation in accepting that an open complaints procedure protects them against allegations of 'white-wash'".

For about a year prison officers have refused to participate in internal inquiries, insisting that any allegation made by an inmate be referred to the police for investigation. It is then a question of the Police Federation following the Prison Officers' Association. That, however, is not the most important point. At the recent summer school held by the Howard League for Penal Reform, representatives of the Prison Officers' Association informed those present of the policy of the association.

I was therefore surprised to read that Mr Wright was encouraging prison officers to initiate a procedure that has been practised by them for some time.

Yours sincerely, DAVID EVANS, Assistant Secretary, Prison Officers' Association, 245 Church Street, Edmonton, N9.

Alcoholics Anonymous

From Mr Ronald Forbes

Sir, On October 10 you carried a PA story about Alcoholics Anonymous being granted a licence for the bar at their convention in Brighton. I was most concerned about the quotation attributed by the Brighton Council's solicitor that the organizer of the AA convention said "some members are sufficiently rehabilitated to be able to drink in moderation".

This is inaccurate and I should like to make it very clear to your readers that members of Alcoholics Anonymous do not drink at all. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking and the organizers of the convention did not make any such statement. The bar licence was for the friends and relations of AA members attending the annual convention.

Yours faithfully, RONALD FORBES, Hon. Executive Director, Allwarp Trust Fund Limited, 364 High Road, Willesden, NW10.

Look you!

From Mr P. R. Oliver

Sir, Has not your column-wallah Trevor Fishlock, writing in your "Holidays in India" Special Report of November 14, made a slight gurrurr of his lingo? "Shutts" may have been imported into Hindoosthan by later-day Mulvaneys, but surely they were more properly (?) taken at pyramids, bints and other Egyptian objets d'art? Sabibs, boxwallahs and the like, pukka or otherwise, took "dekhs" or, more correctly, "dekhs".

Yours, one-time thrice-born, P. R. OLIVER, Bridge Cottage, Little Percherick, Wadebridge, Cornwall, November 14.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 24: Mr W. R. Tomkys was received in audience by the Queen this morning and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Bahrain.

Mrs Tomkys had the honour of being received by the Queen. His Excellency Monsieur Abdel Khader Kamara was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor, and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to the Queen: Monsieur Mohamed Ould Khamfer (Counsellor).

Sir Michael Fallis (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen received the Bishop of Truro (the Right Rev Peter Mumford) who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by the Right Hon William Whitelaw, MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department) and paid Homage upon his appointment.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells (Clerk of the Closet) and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen held a Council at 12.40 o'clock this afternoon.

There were present the Right Hon Francis Pym, MP (Lord President), the Right Hon George

Younger, MP (Secretary of State for Scotland), the Right Hon Sir Michael Havers, MP (Attorney General), the Right Hon Thomas King, MP (Minister of State, Department of the Environment).

Sir Neville Leigh was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon Francis Pym, MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held an Evening Reception at Buckingham Palace for the Diplomatic Corps at which the Prince of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present.

The String Orchestra of the Scots Guards played selections of music during the evening.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry were on duty.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning laid the Foundation Stone of the new building at Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Senior Nursing Officer, Miss E. M. V. Denney) and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Major J. D. Young).

This afternoon His Royal Highness, having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire (Colonel the Hon Gordon Palmer), opened and toured the new Skills Centre at Crippenham Slough.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, presided at a meeting of the Prince's Council at 10 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1, and subsequently gave a luncheon party for members of the Council at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the Prince's Trust at Buckingham Palace.

Mrs John Dugdale has succeeded Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

November 24: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today honoured the Prime Minister (Denis Healey) and members of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights with her presence at luncheon at Ironmongers' Hall.

The Lady Angela Oswald and Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, BT were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Sandwich, Colonel-in-Chief The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Argyshire Regiment) was present today at a luncheon given by the Officers of the Regiment at Merchant Taylors' Hall.

The Hon Mrs Wills and Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

November 24: The Duke of Kent today undertook industrial visits in Staffordshire.

His Royal Highness, who toured the site of the new Queen's Flight, was attended by Captain Mark Bullough.

The Duchess of Kent, Honorary Colonel of the Yorkshire Volunteers, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Catterall, who assumed command of the 3rd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Wilson on his relinquishing the appointment.

The Countess of Rosse gave birth to a son at Balinacree on November 9, 1981.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Marquess of Exeter will take place in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, at noon on Wednesday, December 9, 1981. Apply for tickets to the Secretary, National Westminster Bank Ltd, 4, Lombury, London EC2 2PB.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. E. O. Russell and Catherine Lady Brougham and Vaux of Vaux. The engagement is announced.

The engagement is announced between Mr and Mrs R. E. O. Russell, of Cambridge Street, London, SW1, and Catherine Lady Brougham and Vaux of Vaux, of Vaux, North-Hampton, Chichester.

A service of blessing will be held afterwards in London. A reception will be held in the New Year.

Mr N. Wheeler Robinson and Miss R. V. Verney. The engagement is announced.

The engagement is announced between Mr and Mrs N. Wheeler Robinson, of 10, St. James's Place, London, W1, and Miss R. V. Verney, of 10, St. James's Place, London, W1.

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OBITUARY

SIR OLAF CAROE

Distinguished service in British India

Sir Olaf Caroe, K.C.S.I., F.R.S.L., who died on November 23 at the age of 89, had a career of great distinction in the foreign department of the Government of India rising to be its Secretary, and was Governor of the North West Frontier Province in the anxious days preceding the transfer of power.

Olaf Kirkpatrick Caroe was the eldest son of William Caroe and Grace Desborough. He was born on November 15, 1892, educated at Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford, and was a captain in the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Territorial Forces) during the First World War. He was recruited to the Indian Civil Service in 1919, being in a batch of five officers selected for their war records and posted to the Punjab, all of whom rose to high positions. He joined the political department in 1922, after his appointment in the Punjab, and was sent to the North West Frontier Province where he served as deputy commissioner in various districts.

In 1933 he was appointed chief secretary to the government of the province. In the following year he was called to Delhi to be deputy secretary of the foreign and political department for the northern provinces. He was promoted to Resident in the Persian Gulf. He then went to Baluchistan to officiate as agent to the governor-general for a few months, after which he became Resident in the judicial Commissioner of the Province.

He returned to Delhi shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939 to become secretary of the External Affairs Department. He was promoted to the rank of permanent secretary in 1942, and was sent to the Middle East to join a small group of like-minded men, including Mr. H. V. Hodson, Editor of *The Sunday Times*, Mr. Guy Wint, and Mr. K. M. Panikkar, in the systematic study of problems of the Indian Ocean and Middle East.

In March, 1946, Lord Wavell selected Caroe to be Governor of the North West Frontier Province, with which he was well acquainted. The time was one of much ferment and anxiety arising from the question of the position of the province in the event of partition and the creation of Pakistan. The only of maintaining the unity of the province, which was a Muslim majority area, was his task. He was assisted by a number of able and experienced officials, including Mr. Khan Sahib, and his more vehement brother, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, known as the "Frontier Gandhi", were strongly opposed to separation from India while support for the Muslim League was still strong.

When in April 1947 Lord Mountbatten, the last British Viceroy, summoned a conference of provincial Governors, his press officer, Mr. Alan Campbell, observed in his diary that "Caroe looked tense and tired and was clearly weighed down by his heavy responsibilities". He had been charged in the Congress Press in India with showing partiality to the Muslim League, largely because he had suggested that the issue should be submitted to a referendum. The proposal was distasteful to the leaders of the Indian National Congress, but they gave reluctant consent as part of the price to be paid for complete independence. Thereupon Caroe took what some thought to be the quickest step of suggesting to the Viceroy that he should be granted leave forthwith, so that the leadership of the province should be in other hands. The offer was accepted, and he was being conducted by a British officer of the Indian Army. The Viceroy in reply assured Caroe of complete confidence in his impartiality, while recognizing and commending his fine public spirit in making the offer. He knew, he wrote, "you have always worked wholeheartedly in the interests of the Province as a whole, and you have done very fine work at a most difficult time".

The Secretary of State granted the leave asked for, and the tall, angular figure of Caroe was seen no more in the regions he knew so well. The Acting Governor, Mr. R. L. Lockhart, who had been G.O.C. Southern Division of India, the referendum decided the issue by a large majority in favour of Pakistan. Caroe's home Caroe settled at Steyning in Sussex, and his active churchmanship was shown by his chairmanship of the Chichester diocesan Pastoral Reorganization Committee, which investigated the needs of parishes in the changing urban and rural conditions. He was also active in the work of the Overseas League and became vice-chairman of its Council. His *Wells of Power* (1953) was a valuable study of the importance of the oilfields of South West Asia. In the following year his *Soviet Empire* appeared. It relied in the main on personal observation and information gathered during his official career.

The *Pathans* appeared in 1958, from *Nile to Indus* (written in collaboration with Sir Thomas Kinnaird and Patrick Reid) two years later, and *Poems of Khushk* (with Sir Evelyn Howell) in 1963. In 1972 he wrote the introduction for a new edition of *Carney*, by Mount Stuart Elphinstone.

From 1959 to 1977 he was the first President of the Tibet Society of the United Kingdom. He was an Honorary D.Litt. of Oxford and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1959. Caroe married in 1920, Frances Marion, daughter of the Rt. Rev. A. G. Rawstorne, Bishop of Whitley. She was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Coronation Medal in 1911. They had two sons. His wife died in 1963.

THE ARTS

Television
Equality
myth

A Question of Equality, BBC's five-part reflection on the educational labyrinth presented by Patrick Nattgens, Director of Leeds Polytechnic, began last night with a powerful piece of advocacy by the writer and educationist Eric Midwinter. His argument was that equality of opportunity, which he thinks was sold to us by the 1944 Education Act, is a myth and has been proved to be so. Social class, he argued, determined how far people got and the reason why seven out of ten university students were middle-class was because they came from environments that were an extension of the good school — with books, space, educated parents and an atmosphere conducive to getting on.

He contrasted Bromley with Sandwell to prove his point. Bromley, true blue and affluent, has 13 per cent of its parents university graduates and 14 per cent of its children — twice the national average — following in their footsteps; working-class Sandwell, despite considerable educational effort, has only three per cent of its parents graduates and three per cent of its children following.

Mr Midwinter moved well, like a former welterweight, and threw punches at the class system from all angles, though I thought at least one of his targets was there merely to demonstrate his prowess. He spent some time proving that the working-class were not "thick" — this being one possible explanation, he said, of the disparity in the attainment. I do not think this allegation has had much currency for a long time.

This apart, Mr Midwinter was pretty impressive. His solution is that resources should be centred on improving homes; that a massive programme should be launched to involve working-class parents in the education of their children so that they could be given, instead of the myth of equality of opportunity, "the opportunity of equality".

In the following debate, Mr Midwinter was largely disagreed with by Lord Valzey, Professor of Economics at Brunel, and Stuart MacLure, editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, who were dismissive of his arguments but not, to my view, terribly constructive. I gave this one to Mr Midwinter on points. The further bouts in this series should be worth following.

Iris in the Traffic, Ruby in the Rain, by Stewart Parker, a day in the life of two Belfast women, one a social psychologist, coiled to do good work wherever, the other an unemployed salesgirl, was BBC's Play for Today.

It began brilliantly, was episodic and finally inconclusive but pacy, dramatically photographed, well-spiced with Ulster humour and illuminated by a superb performance by Frances Tomelty as the social worker, Ruby. Aingeal Grehan, as Iris the salesgirl, had less occasion to unwrap her psyche but survived well, and Laila Webster provided a grimly believable portrayal of a social misfit.

Dennis Hackett

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"The 'Oresteia' is more than words... it only comes into its own in the theatre": rehearsal at the NT

The total expression of tragedy

Oliver Taplin, fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, introduces the *Oresteia*, which opens at the Olivier Theatre on Saturday. His speciality is Greek tragedy, and his book *The Stagecraft of Aeschylus* opened new windows on the subject.

language is not conversational, the action not minute and circumstantial, the characters are not obviously ordinary people.

The language is not only not chat but is poetry. Moreover there are three levels of poetry, and these help articulate the shape of the plays. First and foremost there are the spoken lines of the actors, some in long structured speeches, some in dialogue, especially tense line-by-line interchange (*stichomythia*). The poetry of these spoken lines has much the same relation to colloquial speech as Shakespeare's blank verse had to the ordinary talk of his day. Between these acts come the "odes" of the chorus, with complex rhythms and more rarified language accompanied by music and dance. While these interrupt the run of the action, they are no mere interludes: they present the play on another level, in a sense, an allusive lyric sequence of associations, always tending towards the universal and the timeless. Thirdly, there are lyric scenes in which both actors and chorus participate. These are part of the acts, yet emotionally and poetically they surge out of the argued, earthbound sequence of the speech to a hovering and unpredictable level of song.

But the *Oresteia* is more than words. Aeschylus did not only write it, he was director, choreographer and composer. His work was made to be performed, and only comes into its own in the theatre. Bold stage-directions interlock with vivid imagery. The theatrical purposefulness is exceptionally strong, so that

sound and sight and sense are fused.

"Once a man's dark death blood has split on the ground, no one can call it back again." The motif recurs again and again throughout the trilogy. It was the *Oresteia* which gave Wagner the idea of the *Leistungs*. The chorus of the middle play, in support of Orestes' revenge on Clytemnestra, repeatedly sing of how blood shed on the earth demands more blood. Only when they see Orestes stand over two corpses, as his mother had before him, do they see that their precept applies to him no less than her. This is the impasse at the trial: whether it is husband's or mother's, blood is blood, and once spilled it cannot be recovered. This is translated into vivid stage terms when the Furies like hounds follow Orestes by the scent of his mother's blood. The trail is ineradicable.

The very first song of Agamemnon establishes a connexion between bloodshed and cloth on the ground. The old men recall how at Agamemnon's departure ten years before Iphigenia's robes flowed to the ground — they cannot bring themselves to tell how her throat was cut. Disquieting echoes reverberate to the central scene where Clytemnestra persuades her victorious husband to trample the rich blood-red cloth she stretches from the palace door to his chariot. He does not see how this leads to his death. Cassandra, by contrast, in token of her insight and knowledge of her fate, throws off her prophetic

Theatre

Hansel and Gretel

Warehouse

When a reputable playwright reworks a fairy tale for production by the RSC, reviewers are apt to assume that he has some crafty Orwellian purpose in mind, as I did when David Rudkin's piece, first appeared at Stratford last year. A second viewing, coupled with an author's programme note, knocks that one firmly on the head. *Hansel and Gretel* may contain references to productivity and cuts, but the real interest of the piece is in seeing what a modern imagination can make of the old story.

The first two scenes tell you what to expect. First comes the carnivorous spectre of Brenda Bruce, favouring us with a hideous grin as she announces "these are the clothes of children I have eaten". Immediately followed by the sight of a wrathful suburban mother with bang-dog husband and baby in tow, abandoning the hiding tots in Bluebell Woods to teach them a lesson. She could almost be a witch herself.

The storytelling thus cuts two ways; at once revealing the nightmare patterns under everyday life, and the domestic reality of horror. At first glance Chris Dyer's set suggests a Grimm engraving brought to life. Look a bit closer and you notice a blackened pedal-bin, a large foil-lined box ("for micro-waving little boys"), and an electric eye in the cottage door. Here Miss Bruce lures the blubbery infants while posing as lovely old Grammie Daw, before getting rigged up in a long black leg-flashing mum-

ber, ready for the coven's weekly disco if only she can get her broomstick to start. Besides the captives, the household includes a ghoul servant and the Witch's fateful daughter Olive (Barbara Kinghorn) who engage in a grisly parody of family life, reaching its climax in her father's kitchen when Olive turns sorcerer's apprentice with a kitchen blender.

Miss Bruce has the time of her life as the monstrous, many-faced witch; but, curiously, her victims also begin looking like monsters. Alan Hendrick's finally treacherous Hansel, and Janine Duvitski's collaborator Gretel. The only remotely sympathetic character is the feebly conned, begin looking like monsters. Alan Hendrick's finally treacherous Hansel, and Janine Duvitski's collaborator Gretel. The only remotely sympathetic character is the feebly conned, begin looking like monsters.

Irving Wardle

Her Royal
Highness...?

Palace

As an author, Royce Ryton has been well served by royalty. Edward VIII (*Crown Matrimonial*), Edward VIII, Alexandra, and now our newest Princess. There can be few playwrights who better understand how it feels to be royal, and the immensely detailed, documentary-like approach of his Abidication play does equally well for the agonies of public courtship and the burden of a girl whose wave must henceforth never die and whose smile never crack.

But that is only half the play. It is tempting to see the hand of Mr Ryton's collaborator, Ray Cooney, taking over as we tumble into silliest farce, though having sat through Mr Ryton's one West End comedy I am not so sure. At all events, Diana takes fright and flees, and is replaced by the barmaid winner of an Australian look-alike contest who exclaims "Well, I'll be a wedding wombat!" before submitting

to a crash course in courtships. It is resourceful, as well as loyal, to reinterpret the black frock-episode and the tears at the altar as just evidence of a substitute's inexperience. But that is the show's last witty idea, and from then on the faithful Mavis doggedly follows "Liza". Doolittle's course in vowel instruction to a Cowdray Park replay of *My Fair Lady*'s Ascot scene where she screams expletives from the touchline and dismisses King Constantine with a cheerful "Refugees first". The rest is nonsense which may not bother an audience that cackles when she says "camp aide" for side-de-camp, but it wrecks a touching scene when the Queen Mother comforts the real Diana before her ordeal: since the other one has got away doing Calamity Jane, what has she to fear?

Before having to clown, which she does well enough, Eva Lohman successfully creates Diana by hints of her dimples and endearing habit of standing with legs at curious angles. Even allowing for Claire Elyth's beautifully precise costuming, most of the impersonations also work by suggestion: Morar Kennedy captures the Queen's angle of head and bust as exactly as the placing of the brooch on the Jersey dress, and Marc Sinden stands with fingers dipped in his jacket pockets at just the Prince's depth. He also preserves the right expression of charmed-interest whatever fatuous scene meets his eyes; and I doubt whether even the real-life Charles needs it more.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

Bournemouth
SO/Segal

Festival Hall

For their major St Cecilia concert, Uri Segal and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra last Thursday paired Mahler's sixth symphony with Beethoven's first piano concerto (Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich as soloist) at the Winter Gardens there, and on Monday brought the same programme to London.

Little can they have known when they fixed the programme, that London would have recently heard an illustrious series of the Beethoven piano concertos, and at least one fine account of Mahler's (it used to be a London concert rarity, but has lately been figuring regularly at the Festival Hall). Perhaps that is why the hall was not quite as full as might have been expected for such a concert.

It was interesting, not odious, to compare Bishop-Kovacevich's reading of the C major Beethoven concerto with Brendel's of a few weeks ago. Monday's performance was big and mellow in conception, at its most eloquent in the first movement cadenza (again the spacious third version) and the slow movement's grandiose reverie, more forward-looking in style than Brendel's.

These three-day Proms, for anyone who does not know, are a cunningly stage-managed fusion of end-of-term concert, television chat show and crash course in music history, jointly sponsored by *The Times*. After the unusually bland items in the first half this year, and after hearing every detail of the compère Antony Hopkins's illness in Japan, it was a relief to listen to the Bridlington String Group, 55 young players in this non-selective, self-financing strathspey-style band, played one of Satie's *Gymnopédies* and a reel, both in imaginative arrangements by their conductor, Gillian Boyd. Many miles away from Suzuki (hence the traveller's tales), their playing has a captivating and refreshingly rough-hewn character that

Bishop-Kovacevich's interpretation was also less sharp-featured in detail and character, as memory kept tresorously reminding me; and the orchestra seemed to have given more rehearsal time, understandably, to the less familiar, enormous, and difficult Mahler symphony. It was after the interval that we heard the BSO in the fine-tuned, well-disciplined form nowadays expected of their South Bank concertos.

Incisive woodwind, especially their acrimonious, sardonic oboes and clarinets in the nightmare music of the first two movements, stood out from the clear, succulent high violin lines (still part of the Silvestri legacy), and reliable heavy brass. Segal's reading paid exemplary attention to clarity of detail in the elaborate of contrapuntal music. It was seldom that an important musical incident did not emerge as clearly as a devotee could wish (the second hammer-blow was a rare casualty, and one entry of off-stage cowbells sounded too faint, but only one).

Segal opts for steady tempo, strongly rhythmic. Some of the music's urgency was missing, though not in the finale which was soundly weighted and built in performance. The slow movement (placed third) was moulded with real affection.

William Mann

sparked off the first signs of audience participation, heads bobbing, feet tapping. Flanking the interval were two jazz bands, turning the spotlight on this year's speciality. The Bavarian Turkheim Schoolband, this year's guests, proved that debiles create debiles, whipping up the audience with four uniformly brazen, slickly professional big band numbers. Sammy Nestico's arrangement of Double Exposure featured Humphrey Lytelson as guest soloist with the highly accomplished Solihull Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Jenny's Accordionists from Colchester were formed to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth which spawned the Schools Prom: sounding for all the world like a brightly-painted fairground Gavioli they were a nice foil for the alert, flexible musicianship of the Solihull Sixth Form College Brass Quintet.

Surprisingly rare silence and equally ecstatic applause greeted Robert Cohen and the Surrey County Youth Orchestra in the first movement of Dvorak's Cello Concerto, its encapsulation of the entire world's changing moods caught with affection and fresh youthful enthusiasm.

Hilary Finch

Experimental music

A world of dreams

Jon Hassell

Public Theatre,
New York

One of a number of musicians presently dreaming of a "world music" in which various ethnic strains are reconciled, the American trumpeter Jon Hassell has achieved an approach which is producing work of quite extraordinary beauty. A former student of Stockhausen and the Indian singer Pandit Pran Nath, and a collaborator with La Monte Young, Terry Riley and Brian Eno, Hassell blends his experiences in such a way that the components — African drumming, Indian microtonality, Balinese tranquility — make a new palette while forfeiting none of the individual colours.

Hassell and his group, which includes two percussionists, a bass guitarist and a fifth member whose function is to provide electronic treatments, performed twice in New York at the weekend, not only emphasizing the good impression made by two recent recordings, *Possible Music* and *Dream Theory* in Malaga, but suggesting that their discoveries could achieve a popularity beyond the confines of the downtown avant garde.

The content of the music

may have evolved from a complex of ideas, but the structure is simple and immediately accessible. The percussionists (variously employing congas, hand-clapping, tablas and bowls) and the bassist set up a light rhythmic continuum, prepared tapes provide textures (including discreet "found noises" such as desert winds and barking dogs) and Hassell improvises over the results in the manner, although not the style, of a jazz soloist.

The melodic content of Hassell's line, whose rapid curling phrases glance weightlessly off the background figurations, is remarkable enough, but the sound he produces is utterly mesmerizing and gives the music its signature.

The nature of the event, with Hassell sitting quietly on a cushion and pointing his bell down to a microphone positioned on the floor, candlelight defining the outlines of his clustered accompanists, may have been reminiscent of the Sixties, but the rap attention of the audience suggested that, whatever one's reservations about contemporary eclecticism, here is a synthesis which delivers the goods and which certainly deserves the widest possible exposure.

Richard Williams

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Unemployment—
a way of
life, page 19

Business News

THE TIMES Wednesday November 25 1981

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Dollar hit by cut in US prime rates

By Frances Williams

United States interest rates took a further tumble yesterday as several American banks cut their prime lending rates, amid continued optimism that more cuts are on the way.

But the lead taken by Chase Manhattan, which cut its prime rate from 16 1/4 to 15 1/4 per cent, was not followed by the others which moved to a more cautious 16 per cent.

The interest rate falls, together with news of a smaller than expected rise in the United States consumer price index last month, gave the dollar a sharp knock on the international currency markets.

It slumped 2.22 pence to DM 2.2250 at the end of London trading against a generally stronger Deutschmark, while the pound climbed to its highest level against the dollar since June, rising 1.40 cents to finish trading at \$1.9185.

Wall Street welcomed the lower interest rates, however. The Dow Jones industrial average, which showed only slight gains for most of the day, took off in mid-afternoon to close up 18.45 at 870.24.

The prime rate came down much faster and deeper than we had thought, one analyst said.

The cut in American prime rates—the rates at which banks lend to their best corporate customers—follows a steady decline in money market rates, and most analysts are confident that more cuts are likely before the end of the year. Levels as low as 13 per cent are being predicted.

Market watchers are also expecting a further drop of perhaps 1 percentage point in the Federal Reserve Board's 13 per cent discount rate, at which it lends to banks and other financial institutions. Last week the Fed abolished

Cut-price BA fares for travel agents

From Derek Harris
Commercial Editor
Phoenix, Arizona, Nov 24

Discounted British Airways tickets, hitherto available only through "bucket shops", are to be sold over the counters of High Street travel agents belonging to the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA).

The three-month experimental scheme starts on January 1 with bookings being taken from December 14. At this stage only some Far East destinations will be covered.

The deal was announced here today as ABTA's annual convention opened.

Discounts on regular fares will normally be about 25 per cent. Prices will be competitive with bucket shop tickets for direct flights from Britain to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Tokyo, Osaka and Jakarta.

Both ABTA and British Airways acknowledge that the move will technically be illegal, infringing fare levels not open to governments as part of an airline's licensing agreement. The Government has not yet been informed of the scheme.

Mr Jim Harris, head of British Airways' United Kingdom and Ireland division, said: "Our licence may be in jeopardy in theory, but in practice this is most unlikely." The Government, he said, has turned a blind eye to the trade in discounted tickets through bucket shops.

A joint statement by British Airways and ABTA indicated that the scheme was likely to be extended to other parts of the world if it reduced the cost of air travel for the first time travellers can buy discounted tickets backed by ABTA consumer protection guarantees.



Lacemakers get weaving to beat recession

Lacemakers at a Derbyshire factory have been working round the clock to meet orders for which they have been "scouring the world", Mr David Attenborough, joint managing director (above), said yesterday.

At the Birkin Group's factory at Borrowash, 21 employees are now working a night shift as a result of the sales effort. At the company's other main factory at Long Eaton, Derbyshire, three employees made redundant a few months ago have been given their jobs back.

Mr Attenborough said: "We are turning out a lot of lace, particularly at Borrowash, but sales are being achieved only by scouring the world for orders, and in many cases accepting business below cost to maintain employment and keep the team together."

Adult workless total up 35,500

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Unemployment fell by 34,230 (0.2 per cent) last month to 2,954,414 or 12.2 per cent of the total workforce. The fall was due to a drop in the number of unemployed school-leavers.

However, adult unemployment continued its steady rise, going up 35,500 to 2,764,000, or 11.4 per cent of the adult workforce after seasonal factors are excluded.

The news is good for the Government for two reasons. The 3 million total has been avoided just before the Crosby by-election and, economically more significant, the adult unemployment rate may be rising slightly more slowly than it was in the early Autumn. It now looks probable that the total will not go above 3 million before January.

These consolations do not conceal the blackness of the unemployment picture. Vacancies showed only a small increase in November from their October level, after allowance is made for seasonal factors, and redundancies are still being announced at a rapid rate.

Most of the improvement in the crude figure is due to school-leavers going off the register, not to jobs but to places on the Youth Opportunities Programme.

The figures would be worse but for a variety of Government measures to keep people out of the dole queues, of which state aid for short-time working is the most important. These schemes are estimated to be keeping 355,000 people off the register.

It seems nearly certain, however, that an influx of school-leavers, and other seasonal factors, will produce the 3 million figure in January unless the Government acts to remove still more people from the register. There is little prospect of any reduction in the underlying level before the middle of next year at the earliest.

The figures produced progress from unions and the Labour Party and a statement by Sir Raymond Pennock, of the Confederation of British Industry, drawing attention to the Confederation's call for reflation.

The figures show that the Midlands, after experiencing a particularly bad period in unemployment, has recorded a slight drop in the underlying rate. But at 13.6 per cent, unemployment in the West Midlands is still one of the worst in Britain, after the North of England (14.8) and Wales (14.6 per cent).

Northern Ireland remains far worse than anywhere else with 17.6 per cent adult unemployment. The best-off region is Greater London, with 8.2 per cent.

Men are most likely to be recorded as out of work than women due to the fact that many women who would, like jobs, do not bother to register. More than one man in six is unemployed in Wales, the North West, the West Midlands and the North of England.

The unemployment rate is one of the highest in Europe. The proportion out of work in Belgium is 14.8 per cent, but France (9.7 per cent), Germany (6.2 per cent), Italy (9.9 per cent) and Holland (8.5 per cent) are all better off.

A way of life, page 19

Telecom placing £600m orders

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is to order another £600m worth of electronic telephone exchanges from its three main suppliers: Standard Telephones and Cables, Plessey and GEC.

The money will be spent between 1982 and 1985 on 190 new TXE4A exchanges and 54 extensions to existing exchanges. The equipment will be installed in towns and cities throughout Britain, including 16 new exchanges in London.

The TXE4A has been called a "semi-electronic" exchange. It is an intermediate step between the old electromechanical exchanges and System X, the fully electronic digital exchange which British Telecom will begin to install in large numbers during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The first TXE4A was installed in Leicestershire a year ago, and the three suppliers had already received orders for £220m worth of the new exchange by British Telecom. Although the breakdown between the three manufacturers was not revealed, industry sources expect each company to get about £200m or orders.

Mr George Jeffrey, chairman of British Telecom, said the corporation's contracts provided direct employment for about 100,000 people in British manufacturing industry and sustained another 100,000 jobs indirectly.

The TXE family of exchanges was originally designed by Standard Telephones. It was then developed by British Telecom into the TXE4A. The "A" version is more sophisticated.

Two prototype System X exchanges are now in operation in the City of London and at Woodbridge, Suffolk, but the digital equipment is not yet well enough developed for large-scale introduction.

Laker loan talks run into trouble

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Sir Freddie Laker's attempts to reschedule the \$131m (£68.6m) syndicated loan which Laker Airways used to buy three A300 Airbus jets have run into trouble. Midland Bank, which leads the syndicate of 13 banks, confirmed yesterday that agreement was taking longer than expected.

Sir Freddie Laker was not available to comment.

Ten of the banks have agreed to the rescheduling, which involved deferring for a year two capital repayments of \$6.9m due next January and July. Dresdner Bank, Bayerische Vereinsbank and one other are believed to be unhappy because the proposals do not involve any conditions or restraints on Laker.

Laker Airways has already agreed terms with Eximbank, the American export credit agency, for rescheduling other debts used to buy four McDonnell Douglas DC-10s.

Brazilian banks may underpin cocoa price

By Michael Prest, Commodities Correspondent

Brazilian banks are considering leading the International Cocoa Organization's \$85m (£44.5m) to fund purchases for the organization's buffer stock from cocoa producers.

Prices touched their lowest point since July at the end of last week when cocoa for March delivery was \$1,066.50 a tonne in London. This is well below the range agreed by cocoa exporters and producers in August.

But a series of measures adopted by the organization's executive committee last week have already encouraged the market. March cocoa closed in London yesterday at £1,088.50 a tonne.

One of the measures was that the buffer stock manager should be allowed to arrange commercial loans of up to \$120m. Since August, the manager has spent \$170m of the \$232m available to him and has bought 64,000 tonnes of cocoa.

Reports from Rio de Janeiro yesterday said that the four Brazilian banks, including the Banco Economico, were interested in supporting the buffer stock. Sr Angelo Calmon de Sa, president of Banco Economico, is expected in London soon for discussions with the International Cocoa Organization.

It is understood that other Brazilian banks may also be willing to put up funds, perhaps bringing the total to \$120m. Brazil is the world's second biggest cocoa producer after the Ivory Coast.

The buffer stock was also allowed to buy up to 36,000 tonnes of cocoa on part payment for delivery in July.

Trade sources in London are cautious, however, about the success of these measures. They point out that cocoa stocks stand at 500,000 tonnes, and production still exceeds consumption.

Govan deal brings work for two years

By Baron Phillips

British Shipbuilders has won a further order worth £125m, £30m, from Jepsen (UK), the British affiliate of the Norwegian group Kristian Rederi.

The contract, for two 45,000 ton carriers, will be undertaken by Govan Shipbuilders, Glasgow, who expect to deliver by the end of 1983.

Over the past four months Govan has won contracts for seven vessels of nearly 300,000 tons dwr, worth about £125m.

Mr Jepsen, managing director of Govan, described the deal as encouraging and gave the yard work for the next two years.

The Jepsen group owns some 70 bulk carriers of the British flag, 70 under the British flag, Mr Arie Jepsen, chairman of the United Kingdom company,

£45m profit for Ranks

Ranks Hovis McDougall, the Mother's Pride and Hovis bakery group, has reported a 41.4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year to September 5 at £45.27m, up from £32.02m a year earlier.

The figures are in line with a company forecast made earlier this month when it bought 10.6 per cent stake in British Sugar in retaliation to a British Sugar "dawn raid" on Ranks.

The full-year figures show sales of 8.9 per cent higher at £1.57m. The dividend for the full year is being increased to 5.51p gross from 5.21p a year earlier.

Financial Editor, page 19

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Faint glimmer of interest in Hanson bid for Berec

Hanson Trust disclosed yesterday that its £75m takeover bid for the Ever Ready battery group Berec has attracted holders of just 1.25 per cent of the shares (Philip Robinson writes). This is 2.33 per cent lower than the figure revealed earlier this month before Thomas Tilling came in with an £89m rival offer.

Hanson, offering alternatives of loan stock, shares and cash with a top value of around 114p a share, owns 15.69 per cent of the Berec vote and has extended its offer until December 14. That is four days after the first closing date of the Tilling bid.

Chairman, Sir James Hanson, is to make a fight of it, a decision on whether he will increase his offer is likely to come within a fortnight.

He has now said his offer is final. If he withdraws it will be the fourth unsuccessful takeover bid this year.

Last night, the Berec share price closed a penny lower at 129p. Thomas Tilling was down 2p to 135p, Hanson rose 2p to 278p.

Tebbit warned

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, last night warned Mr Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary, "If you can't solve the problem of workers in industry, then please don't hinder."

Mr Murray was speaking at a National Economic Development Council conference in London 24 hours after the publication of Mr Tebbit's labour relations Bill which aims at curbing trade union power.

Mr Murray's remarks appeared to receive a cool reception from Mr Tebbit, who was also at the conference (Edward Townsend writes).

Sir Campbell Fraser, deputy president of the Confederation of British Industry, told the conference: "Don't let us get into a situation where we're willy-nilly we are designing down to a price instead of up to a standard. Price is an absolutely vital factor in the competitive market. But it is getting the price right if we let quality and design, delivery and service go to hell."

"The old maxim 'if a job is worth doing it is worth doing well' may be a cliché. But it happens to be true."

Stock Markets

FT Index 520.0 up 2.2
FT 100 54.12 up 0.16
FT All Share 307.37 up 1.20
Bargains 17,090

Sterling

\$1.9185 up 140 points
Index 90.4 down 0.3
New York: \$1.9268

Dollar

Index 106.0 down 0.3
DM 2.2250 down 222 pts.

Gold

\$400.00 up \$4.50
New York: \$401.80

Money

3 mth sterling 15.144
3 mth Euro \$121.124
6 mth Euro \$124.121

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
BSE Ind 24p to 306p
Bank of Scotland 10p to 43p
Barrett Devs 8p to 24p
Braham Miller 51p to 32p
Castletide 10p to 37p
Gears Group 15p to 118p
GEC 10p to 76p
Husky Oil 20p to 55p
Link House 7p to 23p
Pilkington Bros 8p to 31p
Thorn EMI 12p to 45p
Tunnel Alloys B 10p to 50p
Unit Scientific 12p to 34p
Woods Petrol 8p to 58p

Falls
Aeronut & Gen 5p to 24p
Aas Fisheries 5p to 6p
Beckley Exp 5p to 37p
Caffrey 8p to 13p
Cna O'Seas Pack 15p to 21p
Haden 10p to 56p
Kiersey 8p to 35p
Poko Welland 8p to 31p
Pretoria Portland 10p to 38p
Ranger Oil 20p to 43p
Reckitt & Cinn 8p to 24p
Southey PB 7p to 18p
SA Land 10p to 33p
Trust Secs 10p to 33p

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Gold fever grips Japan buyers as prices fall

Tokyo, Nov 24. — The fall in the international gold price has triggered a "gold rush" in Japan.

For the past week small investors have been forming long queues outside gold dealers hoping to capitalize on tumbling gold prices and the recent strength of the Japanese yen against the dollar, which makes gold cheaper to buy with yen.

The price of the metal today fell to a two-year low of 2,830 yen (\$13) per gramme — about \$405 per troy ounce — compared with 3,320 yen (\$15.3) last month, according to a spokesman for Japan's leading gold retailer, Tanaka Kinzoku Kogyo.

The last Japanese gold rush was in January 1980 when record world prices pushed gold up to about 6,500 yen (\$30) per gramme. At that time, the spokesman said, his company's shop in central Tokyo was besieged by housewives and office workers anxious to sell their gold holdings.

More than 200 people were outside the same shop today, this time buyers who apparently hope the recent downward trend for gold will soon reverse, providing them with handsome profits.

The world price has receded from \$460 an ounce in September to a three-month low of \$336 yesterday, mainly owing to investor concern about the depth of the United States recession.

Some experts have forecast that, despite occasional rallies, gold price will soon fall below \$300 for the first time in two years and could even drop to \$200.

Japanese imports of gold, other than gold coins, increased to 9.03 tonnes last month from 8.33 tonnes in September and 5.46 tonnes in August, according to the Tokyo finance ministry. Gold imports in the first 10 months of this year jumped to 101 tonnes from 31.8 tonnes in the whole of 1980. — Reuters.

Tea strike threatens Nissan's UK project

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo Nov 24

The Nissan Motor Company's plan to set up a multi-million pound plant in one of Britain's depressed areas, is in jeopardy once again, this time because of the BL tea break strike, now in its third week.

I understand that Nissan, whose plan is already held up partly because of worries about inter-union rivalry in Britain, would probably not build the plant if the unions insisted on workers having 52 minutes' rest a day for tea breaks and relaxation.

At BL, Longbridge, members of the Transport and General Workers Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are on strike because the management wants to reduce their 52-minute tea-break and relaxation time by 12 minutes.

Rivalry between these two unions is one reason why Nissan has not announced definitely that it is going to build its factory and has ordered another feasibility study with the aim of making a final decision in the new year.

Nissan, which gives 57,000 workers in Japan two ten-minute tea breaks daily, has made no comment on the BL strike but one executive, who wished to be anonymous, said the company had been following it "with some interest". I was told that insistence on any protracted tea-breaks would probably kill the plan.

Mr Koji Shihoh, a spokesman for Nissan's international division, refused to comment on the company's future in Britain, but said: "I was astounded by the labour dispute. In Japan, we negotiate to the very last minute to avert strikes."

Nissan employees work a nine-hour shift five days a week and are allowed a one-hour lunch break as well as the tea break. The company has not had a strike during 27 years of continuous production and made an after-tax profit of £93m in the first six months of this year.

Fuyota, Japan's largest car producer and the world's second largest after General Motors, gives its workers two ten-minute tea breaks a day.

It made a profit of £117m during the first six months of the year.

In addition to their paid shift, Japanese workers volunteer to use their spare time to work on methods of improving quality control and productivity.

Japanese electronics executives claimed today that the Sanyo Electric Company, of Japan, has drawn up plans to produce colour television sets in Britain or Germany to avoid export restrictions in the European Community.

Sanyo itself confirmed that its representatives are trying to buy the Philips colour television plant at Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Under the Sanyo plan, the plant would be redesigned to produce 60,000 sets a year, giving jobs to 400 Britons.

Sanyo produced television sets in Italy from 1977 until last year when it closed its plant. Three of the company's main rivals in Japan, Matsushita Electric, the Sony Corporation, and the Toshiba Corporation, already produce television sets in Britain.

Butlins to spend £20m on Europe hotels

From Derek Harris Phoenix, Nov 25

Butlins, part of the Rank Organisation, is planning to spend up to £20m over the next five years on starting up a hotels chain in Continental holiday centres, with Spain probably the main focus.

It is part of a drive to expand operations of the Rank hotels and holiday division beyond the flagging United Kingdom market.

Mr Bobbie Butlin, who heads the division while still running the Butlins enterprises, said here today that holidays taken in Britain are down 10 per cent this year — the third poor year in succession. "Our major growth thrust in the next five years will be more overseas", he added.

Rank's bid for the OSI (villa holidays) and Wings (tour operator) subsidiary of the Towner Kemelley and Millbourne, expected to be through by the end of the year, will make it by far the biggest United Kingdom holiday operator, with around two million holidays a year.

The leading tour operator, Thomson Holidays, carried just over one million holiday-makers this year.

The Butlins hotels expansion into Europe will remain a separate operation from the Rank hotels chain which is down to seven United Kingdom and three European hotels — since loss-making units in Paris and Brussels were sold off. The Rank Organisation is likely to expand mainly through taking on hotel management contracts.

Butlins already has five hotels operating successfully in Britain on cheap and cheerful formula that brings high occupancy through a long season.

The same formula will apply in the hotels being sought abroad, with Butlins expecting to buy about two a year at around £2m each.

Union curbs plan about right, CBI leader says

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry believes that to be successful the Government's proposed legislation to curb union power must be backed by a more determined effort by employers to involve workers in the running of their firms.

Speaking in Birmingham yesterday, Sir Raymond Penock, the CBI chairman, said new laws alone would not lead to good industrial relations. They had to be backed by moves which made it possible for employees to influence management decisions which affected their livelihoods.

West Midlands region that recent improvements in the economy were not sufficient to induce recovery or reduce unemployment. Recent official figures updated by the CBI's latest trends survey indicated a likely increase in productivity in manufacturing industry approaching 10 per cent this year.

But more action was needed by the Government to cut industry's costs in such areas as the national insurance surcharge, energy prices and local authority rates.

"We have the risk at the moment of being caught in a vicious circle where unemployment goes on rising and this in turn increases government expenditure. The Government in turn feels obliged to take more restrictive measures which in their turn increase unemployment and so on. We have to break out of that circle some time and surely that time is now", he said.

Once again Sir Raymond urged the Government to cut its own expenditure. The CBI has recommended that government manpower should be cut by 10 per cent over the next four years, saving an estimated £3,000m.

He went on: "We are not talking about frontline staff such as the doctors, nurses, armed forces or police. We are talking about the support staff whose numbers have grown like toxins in recent years. In the national health service alone there had been a 50 per cent increase in administrative and clerical staff in the past 10 years."

He said Tuesday's announcement showed that Mr Tebbit was not the ogre some people were trying to paint but was behaving in a reasonable well-balanced manner, as demanded by public opinion.

"We at the CBI think he has got it just about right. He has not missed out anything of importance", he added.

Sir Raymond told the annual meeting of the CBI's

annual meeting of the CBI's

Communication survey Diverse definitions of monetarism

By Tony Samstag

What is monetarism? According to the unpublished results of a short survey undertaken last month by the Department of Business Studies of the University of Edinburgh, very few people have any idea what the word means, even though the policies it describes may have the most profound effect on their lives.

The overall purpose of the survey was "to obtain information about people's perceptions of the 'current situation to assess whether the communication problems between politicians, economists and ordinary citizens which were highlighted in past national sample surveys... are still as great...".

In other words, to get some idea of the width and severity of what those most responsible for it are fond of calling "the communication gap".

To that end, 56 people were interviewed in 10 districts of the South-East on such subjects as inflation, unemployment and the Government's response to those conditions. With the word "monetarism", the interviewer deliberately introduced a technical term or jargon word into what had been a general discussion of economic issues couched in the simplest possible language.

"Not a single respondent commented on the shift away from the questions about prices," the authors say. "They answered without hesitation even if it was just the word 'yes' or 'no'."

The question was: "Have you heard the word monetarism?" Of the 56 respondents, 19 said they had not

heard the word before and only two who had heard the word gave a reasonable description of its meaning. Those two were "tight control on spending and borrowing (government policy)" and "a narrow way of controlling economy by money forces alone".

Of those who had heard of monetarism, 17 had nothing to say about it, or nearly nothing ("just a word"); seven thought it had "something to do with Margaret Thatcher's policy" and 11 embarked upon a kind of free association that produced such bizarre definitions as "the green pound" or "bartering between countries" or "it means we are obsessed with money".

The authors say there is a communication gap between Government, politicians, economists, journalists and the general public. "The people whom we interviewed seemed to feel that these other people were living in a different world which is separate from their own. They use big words; they communicate with each other, not with us."

"The then and us divide that is so often spoken about as typical of the relationships between managers and workers seems to be just as real between policy-makers and communicators and the public."

The report ends on a finely judged note of understatement. "It would appear important to us that people who are at the receiving end of a monetarist policy should understand what it is all about."

IN BRIEF Engineers' Tokyo trade plea

United Kingdom engineering industry leaders in Tokyo yesterday urged Japan to redress its rising trade imbalance in this sector with Britain and other European nations, Mr A. F. Frodsham, director-general of the Engineering Employers Federation, said.

The British request was made at a one-day meeting between the federation and the Japan Machinery Exporters Association, which discussed the promotion of cooperation between Japanese and United Kingdom companies on big projects in third-country markets.

Mr Frodsham said the rising imbalance of the trade in engineering products had increased political pressures for protectionism in many western countries.

Dutch trade surplus
Dutch visible trade showed a provisional seasonally adjusted surplus of 986 million guilders (about £193m) in September, compared with a downward revised 372 million deficit in August.

Docks dispute
Stevedoring supervisors walked off Sydney wharves yesterday in a dispute over an AS40 a week pay claim. The men were expected back at work today. Similar action could follow this week in Melbourne, Adelaide, Fremantle and Brisbane, a union spokesman said.

Cable projects
Some 30 Arab, African and Mediterranean countries are discussing a two-stage submarine cable project as part of a general study of Arab world telecommunications. One cable would go from the Gulf across the Indian Ocean, the other from Mexico to the American continent.

Third World credit
Credit released by the International Monetary Fund for the Third World in the first 10 months of this year, to help them to meet payments problems, came to \$9,000m (about £4,866m) against \$4,700m a year earlier.

Steel talks continue
Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation decided today to continue talks with the British Steel Corporation on job cuts. British Steel wants a further 20,000 jobs to go, bringing the total workforce down to 90,000. In addition it wants negotiations for the cuts to take place at local level, to which the union is vigorously opposed.

Ship registry office
Nigeria is to open a shipping registry office in London from January 1 for companies wishing to register their vessels under the Nigerian flag.

Base Lending Rates	
ABN Bank	15 %
Barclays	15 %
BCCI	15 %
Consolidated Crds.	15.5 %
C. Hoare & Co	15 %
Lloyds Bank	15 %
Midland Bank	15 %
Nat Westminster	15 %
TSB	15 %
Williams & Glyn's	15 %

* 7 day deposit on terms of 250,000 15% over £50,000 14%.

SPAIN'S JOBLESS PROBLEM

Madrid, Nov. 24. — Spain's unemployment rate appears to be stabilizing at about 14 per cent after rising rapidly in the first eight months of this year. But officials do not see any downturn in 1982 and consider the worst may still lie ahead.

"We will continue to have unemployment as a major problem," Señor José Antonio García Díez, the economy and commerce minister, said in an interview.

The growth in the jobless rate from 11.2 per cent in 1980 is being blamed mostly on the sluggish performance of the Spanish economy. In July, analysts were predicting that the gross domestic product would expand by nearly 2 per cent this year but, by early November, they had revised their forecasts to about 0.5 per cent as high inflation led to a sharp slowdown in the growth of domestic demand.

Total domestic demand, as measured by private and public consumption plus gross capital investment, is seen growing by between 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent this year, compared to an estimated expansion of 1.5 per cent in 1980, according to new projections by Madrid's Banco Urquijo. — AP — Dow Jones

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited The Over-the-Counter Market									
1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Stk	Vol	Actual	P/E
114 100	ABT Hldgs 10% CULS	114	—	10.0	8.8	—	—	—	—
75 39	Airways Group	67	—	4.7	10.0	10.6	14.7	—	—
52 21	Armstrong & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	2.6	8.1	—	—
200 52%	Bardon Hll	132	—	9.7	5.1	9.3	11.4	—	—
104 88	Dekohm Services	95	—	5.5	5.3	4.7	8.9	—	—
126 88	Frank Horsell	122	—	6.4	5.2	11.0	26.5	—	—
110 39	Frederick Parker	59	—	1.7	2.9	25.7	—	—	—
110 47	George Blair	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
102 39	IPC	39	—	7.3	7.4	7.1	10.8	—	—
113 59	Jackson Group	98	—	7.0	7.1	3.1	7.0	—	—
130 105	James Burroughs	110	—	8.7	7.9	8.0	10.1	—	—
334 244	Robert Jenkins	282	—	31.3	11.1	3.9	10.0	—	—
59 30	Soramus "A"	35	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9	—	—
224 177	Towday Limited	177	—	15.1	8.5	6.8	11.7	—	—
23 8	Twinkl Ord	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
90 68	Twinkl 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—	—	—	—
55 33	Uniflex Holdings	30	—	3.0	9.1	5.9	10.0	—	—
103 81	Walter Alexander	84	—	6.4	7.6	5.5	9.8	—	—
263 181	W. S. Yeates	218	—	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4	—	—

J. R. EWING SILVER
The Continental Mint, producers of the J. R. Ewing Silver Piece (licensed by Lomax Productions) is seeking importers and distributors in the United Kingdom. L. G. "Mr Dollars" Mosley will be at The Kensington Hilton hotel November 25 and 26 to discuss possible business arrangements with qualified firms. Please telephone Mr. Mosley to arrange an appointment to discuss your participation in marketing this Pure Silver Piece commemorating the most recognized character in the history of television.

If you are interested but unable to meet with Mr. Mosley at this time please contact him at The Continental Mint, 9400 N. Central Expressway, Suite 408, Dallas, Texas 75231, USA.

RHM
RANKS HOVIS McDUGALL LIMITED

Year to 5 September 1981

Profits at record £45 million

- Overseas profits 30% of total
- Dividend again increased
- Earnings per share up from 7.1p to 11.2p

	1981 £000	1980 £000
Turnover (sales outside the group)	1,573,000	1,456,000
Profit before tax	45,275	32,024
Taxation	13,786	11,875
Profit after tax	31,489	20,149
Minority interests	468	299
Extraordinary items	1,184	(3,567)
Profit attributable to shareholders	32,205	16,283
Dividends:		
Preference	283	283
Ordinary	10,625	9,998
(paid and proposed)		
Profit retained	21,297	6,002
Earnings per Ordinary share of 25p	11.2p	7.1p

RHM products include

Mothers Pride Hovis Windmill Bakery
Granary Mr. Kipling Bisto McDougalls
Gracottes Cerebos Energen Sharwoods
Chesswood Atora Paxo Record Pasta

Group pre-tax profit for the 53 weeks to 5 September 1981 was £45,275,000 compared with £32,024,000 for the previous year, an increase of 40%.

Final dividend increased by 10%

A final dividend of 2.333 pence is proposed, making a total of 3.857 pence compared with 3.645 pence last year.

UK and Overseas trading

The £13 million increase in pre-tax profits was attributable partly to excellent results from our grocery interests, our packaged cake business and the Overseas Division. Our overseas businesses now earn over 30% of our pre-interest profits and these have grown during each of the past ten years. Profits from our bread bakeries, dairy produce business and Cereals Division were below last year, although cereals showed a marked improvement in the second half year. Greater profits were earned by our expanding interests in mushrooms.

Tight control of working capital and a considerable reduction in borrowings contributed towards substantially lower interest charges.

A high proportion of the profit improvement occurred in the second half of the year. Principal reasons were the weakness of the pound which contributed towards the overseas profits and the benefits of greatly reduced borrowings after the sale of Wessex Finance in December 1980. As noted, the Cereals Division showed a marked improvement during this period.

The current situation

Over the past year we have continued to improve the efficiency of our United Kingdom operations and to expand our very successful overseas interests. We have also taken energetic steps to improve our financial strength as the consolidated balance sheet will show.

Following the recent and unexpected acquisition by British Sugar Corporation Limited of 14.7% of the Company's Ordinary shares, we felt it was sensible in view of the confused position within the British Sugar Corporation to obtain a strategic stake by acquiring 10.5% of their Ordinary shares.

The outlook for 1982

It is too early to make any profits forecast for the current financial year, but, despite very competitive conditions, our current trading is just ahead of last year.

We expect to benefit from our continuous programme of modernisation, the recent successful launches of new products in the UK and the continued growth and expansion of our overseas businesses.

Peter Reynolds, Chairman

The 1981 Annual Report will be available from December 21st. If you wish to have a copy please write to: The Secretary, Ranks Hovis McDougall Ltd., King Edward House, 27-30 King Edward Court, Windsor, Berks SL4 1TL.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Hanson's options with Berec

Sir James Hanson's arguments that Berec's profits would be illuminated under his management team appear less than convincing to the battery group's shareholders, at least at the current offer price. More precisely, Hanson's 105p a share offer compares with Thomas Tilling's offer with a paper value at last night's price, of 135p. Hanson's offer, however, is around 40 per cent of the Berec equity will decide the fate of this bid on commercial grounds and without sentiment. And at present with Berec's price at 129p, there is no sign of another contender making a late appearance.

So, the next move lies with Hanson, which owns 15.96 per cent of the Berec votes, bought for around 105p a share. The options are these: to sell out at the market price for a cash profit of about £2.6m; to accept Tilling's offer for a paper profit of £3.15m; stay as a minority shareholder (hardly likely); or increase its own offer.

Hanson's decision will be made within a fortnight and almost certainly before December 10. Tilling's first closing date which, theoretically, could give it control. If Sir James chooses to withdraw, it would be his fourth unsuccessful takeover bid this year. But he could end up with the tag as the United Kingdom's most profitable loser.

● The gilt edged market turned round sharply yesterday afternoon on the back of the United States bond market revival and the latest prime rate cuts. Hardly surprisingly, that was enough to set people thinking how nice a small cut in base rates would be ahead of the Crosby by-election. The seven day interbank rate is expected to open below 15% per cent this morning, removing, at least temporarily, the danger of round-tripping. Whether that will prove temptation enough for the banks remains to be seen.

B P B Industries

Way above expectations

In June, new BPB Industries chairman, Mr Geoffrey Flood, suggested there was a reasonable hope of being able at least to maintain last year's profit levels — £42.1m pretax. In fact, for the six months to last September the group has disclosed pretax profits a remarkable £9m higher at £29.8m and the market is now looking for around £58m for the full year to next March.

Rather surprising by, perhaps, the key to BPB's improved fortunes lies in its United Kingdom building materials activities where pre-interest profits are up £4m to £17.1m on a £6.6m sales increase to £103m. Despite the state of the building industry generally, plasterboard sales are up, mainly on the back of the growth in timber framed housing and the continuing demand for repairs and remodeling. For the rest it is a tale of greater efficiency, the concentration of production at larger plants and the closure of the smaller ones, two price increases and a slimming of the workforce in the past two years.

Elsewhere, the improvements have been less dramatic but useful nonetheless. Paper and packaging in the UK benefited from new plants coming on.

HALF YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 30

	1981	1980
Sales	207	184
Trading profits		
Building materials:		
U.K.	17.1	13.1
Canada	1.2	-0.4
France	5.6	4.6
Ireland	1.3	0.9
Paper & Packaging:		
U.K.	3.3	2.1
Overseas	1.4	0.5
Interest	29.8	20.7
Associates	-2.6	-2.1
Pre-tax profit	29.8	20.8

stream, while overseas, Canada returned to profit and there were small gains in France and Ireland. Up 24p to 306p yesterday, the shares have been outperforming the market recently. The historic yield is just over 4 per cent.

Leasing

Weak reply from the ELA

The Equipment Leasing Association will have to be more persuasive if it is to win big adjustments to the Accounting Standards Committee's exposure draft on leasing. The drawn-out tussle between the two took a significant turn yesterday with an ELA assertion that the main issue dividing the parties was not, as had previously been thought, whether or not to show leasing arrangements on the face of the regional development grants. The ELA is worried about the accountants' suggestion that RDCs be dealt with below the line. On individual transactions this might well involve presenting a pretax loss, although the post-tax profit would of course be identical.

But it is surely overstating its case by warning that this relatively minor issue will thwart leasing's stimulus to capital investment. Besides, according to the ASC, the issue of RDCs has only briefly been touched upon in discussions between the two parties. Both should be prepared to sit down and find a compromise, though the ELA has been provocative in demanding that the present exposure draft should be withdrawn until its points have been more fully explored. The point of an exposure draft after all is that it throws open the ASC's proposals to public debate.

One sign of an eventual settlement is the apparent relaxation of the ELA's no surrender attitude on capitalization of leases. One explanation is that there is a difference of opinion on capitalization inside the association but a more united front over RDCs. As for the ASC, its exposure draft on leasing specifically invited firm evidence that its proposals would have detrimental economic effects. There is nothing substantive in the ELA's submissions to answer this challenge.

RHM

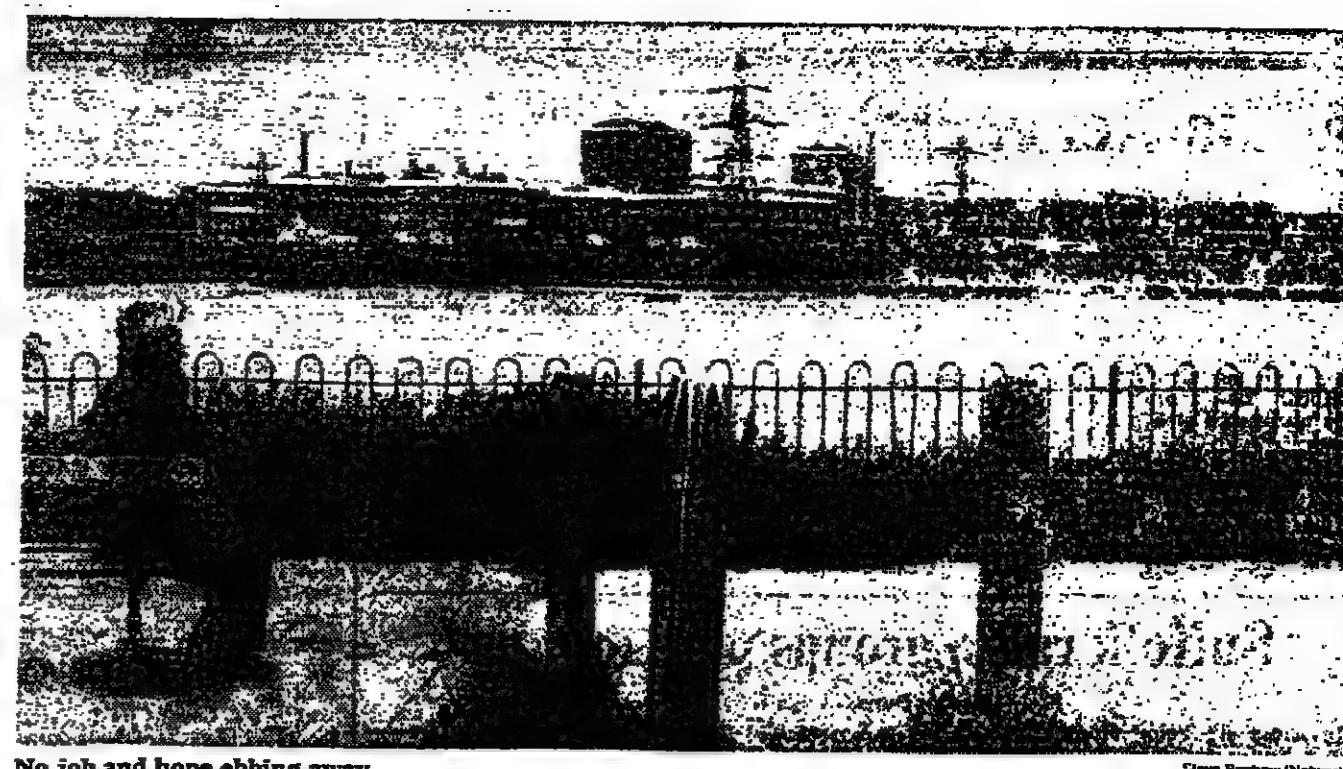
Second half improvement

Ranks Hovis McDougall has duly delivered full-year pretax profits in line with the £45m estimate it made earlier this month after "dawn-raiding" British Sugar in retaliation for British Sugar's own earlier raid in the opposite direction. At the half-way stage in May, reaching profits of £40m for the year had looked a struggle.

Closure costs of £7m have been taken into the extraordinary, which altogether show a £1.2m credit. RHM prefers to stress a good second half. The grocery, packaged cakes and overseas divisions had what it calls "an excellent" second six months. Overseas earnings accounted for 30 per cent of total profits against 22 per cent the previous year, helped by the weaker pound.

RHM has also slashed its borrowings. The sale of its old London head office building and of Wessex Finance, a hire purchase company, has enabled borrowings to be reduced to around £100m from £142m. Interest charges for the year were also reduced, to £14.6m from £20.9m. While the benefits from this have shown through on these latest figures, it was long expected that they would. The shares gained just a 1/2p to 64%. Meanwhile, the group is "keeping mum" over its informal discussions with BSC.

The number of people out of work in November was 2,954,000. One in four of the unemployed have been out of work for more than a year. By 1982 the proportion will have risen to one in three. Frances Williams examines the plight of this group.



No job and hope ebbing away.

When unemployment is a way of life

By the autumn of 1982, more than a million people will have been out of work for at least a year, according to unpublished forecasts by the Manpower Services Commission. Only a few months ago, the commission was predicting that the numbers of long-term unemployed would not top a million until more than a year later, at the end of 1983.

The rate at which their numbers are increasing has accelerated steeply in the past 12 months or so. The Department of Employment Gazette, published today, will show that last month nearly three quarters of a million people had been on the unemployment register for more than a year, double the number in October, 1980.

This represents an increase of 120,000 from July, compared with a rise of 110,000 in the previous three months, and 60,000 in the three months before that. The long-term unemployed now make up one in four of all those out of work. Next year, they will account for one in three.

These chilling figures, signifying much human misery, are viewed with growing concern within the commission and by unions and unemployment pressure groups. But so far the Government shows no sign of evolving any coherent strategy to meet the needs of the long-term unemployed.

Almost all Whitehall's cash and imagination are going into plans to alleviate youth unemployment. Of the £700m employment package announced by the Prime Minister in July, three-quarters is to go on that.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, intends shortly to announce the commitment of more than £1,000m to launch a comprehensive education and

training programme for all youngsters who would otherwise be on the dole, a commitment which some fear could jeopardise other departmental employment measures such as the temporary short-time working compensation scheme. Last month, the scheme kept 320,000 people on short-time as a means of avoiding redundancies.

During the debate on the Queen's Speech this month, Mr Tebbit said unequivocally: "Our first priority is centred on the young, since it is there that the problem is at its worst."

This year, the Manpower Services Commission is spending £400m on special employment measures catering for 550,000 youngsters under 18, mostly on the Youth Opportunities Programme, including almost all those out of work for more than six months. By contrast, £100m is being spent on the community enterprise programme to provide temporary jobs for 35,000 to 40,000 adults.

Misguided

The wholesale diversion of resources into employment measures for school-leavers and other youngsters is understandable, but surely misguided. It implies that unemployment is subsequently less of a problem. Yet people under 25 are the fastest growing group of the long-term unemployed.

By this summer, their numbers had risen two and a half times in only a year, compared with a rise of 75 per cent for all age groups, and they made up one in four of those out of work for more than 12 months. In the summer of 1980, the proportion was only one in six. It remains true, however, that long-term unemployment

ment falls hardest on the middle-aged and those nearing retirement.

In July, 40 per cent of the unemployed over-60s and 35 per cent of those aged 55 to 59 had been jobless for a year or more, compared with 20 per cent of the 20-25 age group.

The official figures tend, however, to understate the numbers facing prolonged spells on the dole. As Chris Pond, director of the Low Pay Unit, points out, many young people experience continual periods of unemployment punctuated by brief spells in work or out of the recorded labour force altogether.

Similarly, people who fall sick while on the dole go off the register while they are claiming sickness benefit, and when they recover are recorded as beginning a new period of unemployment.

Moreover, increasing numbers of workers, probably more than a million — are just not bothering to register as unemployed any more, especially if they do not qualify for unemployment benefit.

Commission forecasts show that the numbers of those out of work for long periods will continue to increase for some time after the unemployment total stabilises. Most forecasters expect the jobs peak to be reached some time in 1982 or 1983 at between 3 million and 3½ million.

Long-term unemployment is thus a long-term problem. The implications are appalling.

Unemployment is the most rapidly growing cause of family poverty. The Government, itself, has made things worse by cutting the real value of benefits, a course of action which the Treasury apparently wishes to continue.

The concentration in the middle age groups of heads of households with dependent wives and three or more children, whose earning capacity may be no more than their entitlement to benefit, means children are being brought up in homes where no one works.

Finally, there is mounting evidence that the experience of unemployment makes people more vulnerable to physical and mental illness.

What then is to be done? Proposals fall roughly into these categories — taking

people out of the labour force altogether, either temporarily through education and training, or permanently through early retirement;

special job creation measures such as the community enterprise programme; inducements to employers to take on more people, with for example, job subsidies; and more general reflation of the economy, perhaps with a particular emphasis on labour-intensive public investment projects.

The Manpower Services Commission, not unnaturally, is keen on training and special measures. An unpublished review of its special programmes explained why.

"Many of the long-term unemployed (especially those aged 25-44 years) have family responsibilities. Many suffer from relatively poor health. Many have reached a stage of depression, apathy and acceptance of the state of unemployment. Few have skills. Most left school at the minimum school-leaving age and have never had any training."

Adult training

"Thus, for very many of the long-term unemployed, policies or programmes aimed at getting them into normal employment in the short term are almost certainly unlikely to be successful for more than a year."

But, so far, the Government has not approved any new measures on adult training or a big expansion of the community enterprise programme.

Mrs Thatcher's only concessions in July to the long-term unemployed were an extra £8m for 1982-83 to encourage voluntary work and £20m to pay the higher rate of supplementary benefit to people over 60 out of work for more than a year and willing to declare themselves retired (affecting perhaps 45,000 people by the end of March 1982).

In addition, the qualifying age for the job release scheme is being lowered from 64 to 62, enabling 47,000 extra people to retire early with a cash allowance to make way for someone on the dole. This will cost £150m next year.

The traditional route to reduce unemployment, and the only course capable of generating the huge number of jobs needed to cut unem-

ployment substantially, is by reflation of the economy.

But this Government has steadfastly refused to contemplate deliberate reflation while price inflation remains high and any attempt to reduce unemployment rapidly through reflation would carry high inflation risks.

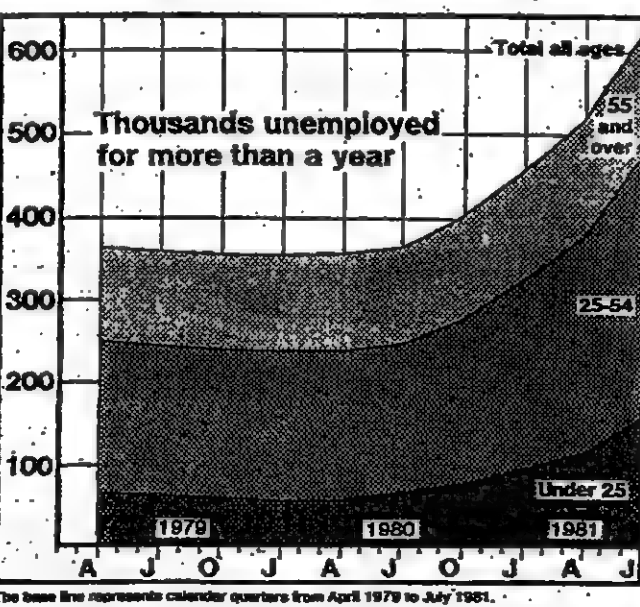
Calculations undertaken by Gavyn Davies of stockbroker Simon and Coates on the impact of Sir Ian Gilmour's proposed economic strategy, imply that each person taken off the unemployment register in 1983 would cost £14,000 through not implementing planned public spending cuts, £11,000 by the abolition of the employers' national insurance surcharge, or £8,000 by additional public investment.

"Best buys" in these terms are special employment measures, costing directly about £3,000 for each person. In the Gilmour package these measures comprise a big expansion of job creation programmes and the introduction of a job subsidy scheme along the lines put forward by Professor Richard Layard and also taken up by the Social Democrats. This would pay a £70-a-week subsidy to employers to take on additional workers unemployed for at least six months, £70 a week then being the approximate cost to the government of keeping such a person on the dole. Today's cost is closer to £90 a week.

Mr Roy Jenkins, campaigning in Warrington in July, claimed that the job subsidy scheme could create 250,000 jobs at a cost of £400m. Taking into account that some jobs will go to people not on the unemployment register, this would produce a drop in unemployment of about 150,000.

There are limits to the number of jobs that can be created through special employment schemes, and such schemes alone would not be enough to produce a big reduction in unemployment. Their supreme advantage is that they can be targeted at people who need help most.

Even the Government's self-imposed economic constraints ought not to blind it to some simple arithmetical truths. It costs the Exchequer £4,500 a year for every person out of work, according to a forthcoming study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.



The line represents calendar quarters from April 1979 to July 1981.

Business Diary: A banker true to type?

The Italian business world is trying to figure out the meaning of the entry of Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti into Banco Ambrosiano, which follows the announcement that he has bought a 2 per cent shareholding for about £22m and been made vice-chairman.

"Capitalism is rich in surprises" was the comment of Nino Andreatta, the treasury minister. De Benedetti pushed his way in, not in a dawn raid, but in days of secret negotiations with the chairman, Roberto Calvi.

There could not be two more different men at the head of the second biggest private bank in the country. Calvi is on bail pending appeal against a four-year prison sentence and a £7.4m fine for currency violations.

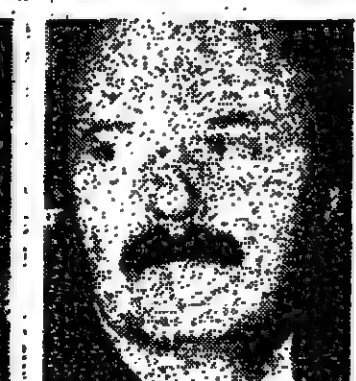
His name is on the list of the reported members of the secret P2 Masonic Lodge. The Italian press links him with the more obscure side of Vatican finances. Under him, Banco Ambrosiano has expanded, but its exact ownership is not known.

On the other hand, De Benedetti, who is 47 and Turinese, has a lay background — he once said he votes for the Republicans, though he is not a party member — and is outspoken in criticizing the methods of the Christian Democrats and their friends.

He comes with a reputation for modern, open management methods, which have enabled him to bring Olivetti round since he joined it three years ago. He says, incidentally, that he is not leaving



Olivetti's Carlo de Benedetti.



Ambrosiano's Roberto Calvi

Olivetti, and will still give most of his time to it.

He is not the sort of person who likes to share command. He left Fiat as joint managing director after only four months in 1976, because he did not get on with the Agnelli. Few believe that the new tandem at Banco Ambrosiano will last long.

Then there is the question of the 40 per cent shareholding in the Rizzoli-Corriere Della Sera group in the hands

of Banco Ambrosiano's subsidiary, La Centrale. The Bank of Italy would like La Centrale to get rid of it. In recent weeks, de Benedetti has been reported as manoeuvring to take a stake in the ailing newspaper and publishing group. Is this an objective behind his entry into Banco Ambrosiano?

Trusting souls

The appointment of four women advisers on consumer affairs to the Unit Trust

Association (UTA) shows where the industry thinks expansion lies.

Ailsa Stanley, Dodo Harris, Baroness Phillips of Fulham and Patricia Lambert, represent a huge range of consumer interest groups, many with predominantly female membership.

Statistics reveal that women own a far greater proportion of wealth than men, quite simply because they live longer and tend to inherit from their husbands. And the appointment of the four women could be seen as an attempt to get an inside track on what might persuade the ladies to invest in unit trusts.

Mark St. Giles, chairman of the UTA, says that he hoped the ladies would be able to reveal "what we are doing right, and what we are doing wrong so far as the customers are concerned". St. Giles rejects the suggestion that having been appointed by the industry, the unpaid panel would not be as fierce as it should be in representing customers by citing their representation of several dozen diverse committees.

George and son

As I reported recently, Michael Montagu ran out of inspiration when in suggesting new names for England's airports he came to Liverpool's Speke and Manchester's Ringway.

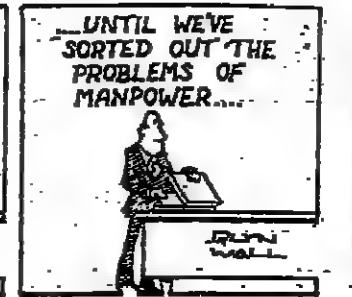
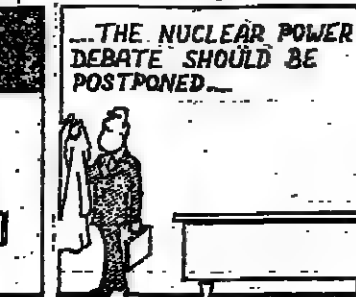
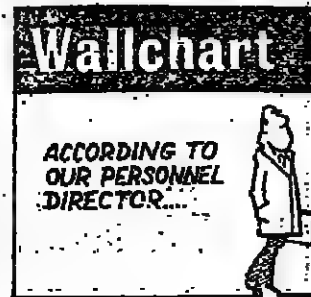
Today I pass on to Montagu, chairman of the English Tourist Board, a suggestion from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IME) that Liverpool be named after George Stephenson and Manchester after his own son, Robert.

The IME's Griffith Vaughan Williams says his reason, apart from the Stephensons having been the institution's first two presidents, is that it was they who linked the two cities together in 1825 with the world's first passenger steam railway. And 1981 is the bicentenary of George's birth.

My objection, apart from the fact people would mix up two airports both called Stephenson, is that I and many other Liverpudlians wonder whether Manchester is worth being linked to.

One British industry that shows no lack of enterprise is the pub industry. Burialists who broke into a pub near me were deterred by the presence of the pub dog, a long-haired German Shepherd. They not only took about £500 from the slot machines — they took the dog too. The pub is called The Greyhound.

Ross Davies



Hintons - Profits doubled on increased volume

	25 weeks to 18 September 1981	25 weeks to 18 September 1980	53 weeks to 7 March 1981
Sales (excluding VAT)	£50,648	£41,220	£44,236
Supermarkets	1,313	1,098	2,089
Off-Licences	51,961	42,319	86,325
Discount Stores	—	3,252	3,827
Company	51,961	45,571	90,152
Profit before Taxation	1,052	485	1,427
Supermarkets	35	25	57
Off-Licences	1,087	520	1,494
Discount Stores	—	(88)	(190)
Company	1,087	422	1,304
Taxation	326	78	240
Profit after Taxation	761	344	1,064
Current Cost Profit	662	169	714
Earnings per share			
Historic Cost	13.84p	6.25p	19.35p
Current Cost	10.22p	3.07p	12.98p
Dividends per share	2.40p	1.80p	6.00p

* Supermarket sales up 23% and profits increased by 113%. Off-Licences also improve performance.

* Fresh food sales expanded — building has started of our Fresh Foods Distribution Centre.

* Processing and packaging at Thornaby contributes significantly to profits.

* New 13,000 square feet supermarket just opened in Redcar, further developing our 'Store of the 80's' concept.

* Sales and profitability trend encouraging.

Hintons The food specialists of the North East

52 SUPERMARKETS

22 OFF-LICENCES

Please complete and return to: The Secretary, Amos Hinton & Sons Ltd, PO Box 24, Master Rd, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS17 0BD

Name _____

Address _____

1981/2 Interim Results

1980/1 Report and Accounts

FINANCIAL NEWS

Barker & Dobson recovers

By Margaret Pagano

Barker & Dobson, the sweet-maker, announced yesterday that the five years spent reorganising its confectionery business have paid off.

In the six months to October the group swung back to profits before tax of £332,000, compared with last time's loss of £140,000. The group's shares were unchanged at 61p on the news.

For the first time in many years there has been an increase in sales of £2.4m to £19.9m. This, together with improved margins, is responsible for the higher profits.

Trading profit was more than doubled at £668,000, but this was knocked back to £298,000 by central expenses and interest charges. Some £34,000 from an associated company pushed up pretax profits.

In July, Mr Ronald Aitken, the chairman, forecast improved sales. Much of this has come from Barker's new product range and the recently introduced stick-pack range of confectionery.

Trading is still difficult with volume affected by fierce price cutting in the trade. Mr Aitken adds that the group is taking

advantage of its trade names and trademarks both at home and abroad. A licence for one of its trade names, Benson's, to trade overseas has recently been completed and others are being negotiated. "We are now satisfied that a sound base has been established," Mr Aitken says, but he is not forecasting for the full year.

Both sides of the business improved. Profits from confectionery moved up to £313,000 from £84,000. From its retail division profits rose to £355,000 against £224,000.

Bath and Portland buys more Braham

By Peter Wainwright

Bath and Portland Group, the construction and civil engineering recovering strongly from an ill-fated £160m contract to build roads in Iran, is once again expanding. Yesterday, through Cazenove, the stockbroker, it bought 1.44m shares in Braham Millar, a maker of quarrying plant which is already under siege from Fieldwood, a private investment group. Earlier this month Fieldwood raised its offer from 24p to a "final" 30p cash. Braham does not want it.

Bath has bought its Braham shares at 33p apiece. It now owns 1.89m shares, or 14.9 per cent of the total. Bath plans a tender offer for up to 1.89m shares for up to 33p apiece and if this succeeds, its stake, including shares held by the B and P pension fund, will rise to 29.9 per cent. Braham welcomes the investment, and if the Fieldwood offer lapses, two B and P men will join the Braham board.

B and P will find the £1m cash involved from its own resources.

The last balance sheet was



Sir Kenneth Selby, chairman of Bath and Portland Group.

almost clear of borrowings, thanks to a £2.7m sale of shares to LTA, a South African company in the Anglo American group. LTA now has just over a fifth of Bath's equity.

Sir Kenneth Selby, chairman of Bath and Portland, said that with Iran out of the way the group was expanding just as it did before.

Yesterday Bath and Portland's shares rose 5p to 66p. Those in Braham added 5p to 31p.

Sharp rise in C E Heath profit

By Our Financial Staff

Operating profit before tax of C. E. Heath, the London-based insurance broking group, rose sharply in the six months to last September from £5.1m to £7.4m. At the attributable level profits were £1m higher at £4.1m with earnings per share coming out at 13.2p against 9.8p. The dividend is being increased by 16 per cent to 3.6p a share compared with 3.1p.

The insurance broking operations produced a 19 per cent increase in income at £11.3m. Mr Frank Holland, chairman, said: "The changes in the value of sterling against other

currencies in the past few months have produced currency gains of approximately £900,000, but even so, this still indicates a good improvement in our trading position."

The group is managing to contain cost increases on this side of its operations, and although expenses rose slightly from £3.3m to £3.9m the expense ratio fell from 87.8 per cent to 81.2 per cent.

On the underwriting side fees and commissions earned in the first half of the year were £4m against £4.3m. Profits from overseas underwriting were £437,000 com-

pared with £506,000 in the first half of the previous year. Mr Holland added: "No account has been taken in these figures of the likely contribution from our Lloyds underwriting operations, which, of course, is our usual practice. However, the prospects are that at the end of the year the income from this source will be less than in 1980-81."

Investment income jumped from £929,000 to £2.3m thanks to high interest rates in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Suffolk radio groups plan merger

By Our Financial Staff

Investors are being offered shares in a new company, Suffolk Group Radio, which has been created to merge the interests of two East Anglian radio stations, Radio Orwell and Saxon Radio.

The deal, which involves SGR making offers to shareholders of Radio Orwell, is being put together by Mr Francis Madden, a Norwich merchant banker and director of East Anglian Securities. SGR will also acquire the shares of Saxon Radio, which was set up in December last year and

gained its IBA franchise in August.

The SGR prospectus, published yesterday, invites subscriptions for 144,000 £1 ordinary shares and 48,000 £1 preference shares of £1 at the price of £1 per share. Undertakings have already been received for 72.5 per cent of the issue.

SGR's offer to Radio Orwell shareholders is 23 SGR £1 shares for every 20 ordinary Orwell shares, and 23 SGR cumulative redeemable preference shares for 20 Orwell 7 per cent preference shares.

The proceeds of the issue—which will raise £162,000—will finance the new commercial radio station for Saxon Radio based in Bury St. Edmunds. Suffolk Radio is not planning a share quotation but will continue to trade under Rule 163 (2) as did Radio Orwell which has been operating the independent local radio service based in Ipswich for six years.

The scheme has met with IBA approval and the idea behind it is to provide both stations with common news gathering, marketing and financial services.

Hambros raises dividend

Hambros, the merchant banking and life assurance group, has made slightly lower profits in the half-year to September 30, but the group is raising the half-year dividends on the £2 and 5p shares by 17.3 per cent to 21.8p gross and 21.8p gross respectively. The shares fell 2p to 156p yesterday.

Hambros said 'banking' profits were broadly unchanged while both Hambros Life and Berkeley Hambro Property increased their dividends.

Equipu plans placing and USM quotation

Equipu, a Bristol-based office supplies group, is raising £185,000 to finance expansion plans through a private placing share issue. It is also seeking a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The company has issued 396,568 new ordinary shares at 60p each. A further 403,432 shares being sold by existing shareholders are included in the placement, which accounts for 18 per cent of the company's enlarged share capital. After the placement, Equipu directors will hold a 79 per cent equity stake.

Dealings in the shares are expected to start next Tuesday. On Monday, dealings will begin on the Unlisted Securities Market in Saxon Oil, the British partner with Conoco and Trianol in four North Sea oil exploration and production licences.

£1.08m—more than double the £422,000 made in the first half of 1980-81 and not far short of that year's total profit of £1.3m. Sales were up from £45.6m to £51.9m. The interim payment is boosted from 2.57p to 3.42p gross.

Barratt optimistic

Mr Laurie A. Barratt, chairman of Barratt Developments, said the annual meeting that sales of the group's new houses had risen at record levels in the first 21 weeks of the financial year, and that the advance sales position today was over 20 per cent up on last year in terms of units. He was not at all depressed with the economy, which he felt had bottomed out and was now beginning to rise.

Century Oils up 33 pc

Mainly because of Century Oils' expanding overseas activities, sales rose by 31 per cent to £32.1m in the half-year to September 30. Pretax profits jumped by 33 per cent to £2.07m. Sales of the group's overseas companies now account for 44 per cent of the total in spite of the effects of miners' strikes in both the United States and Australia.

The interim payment, gross, is going up from 1.44p to 1.42p, but this is to reduce the disparity between the interim and final payments. It should not be taken as an indication of the level of the final dividend.

Tomatin loan

A 3m long-term loan for Tomatin Distillers, the whisky group that recently disclosed interim losses of more than £1.1m, is being put up by Finance Corporation for Industry.

The loan, which carries an option for FCI to subscribe for a 10 per cent share stake, is to be used by Tomatin to replace some of the company's short-term borrowings.

Tomatin's recent six-month results showed a pretax loss of £1.1m and the directors said yesterday that trading conditions remained difficult.

Transparent Paper

In spite of a small rise in turnover, from £18.04m to £18.63m, Transparent Paper slumped into a pretax loss of £956,000 in the half year to October 3, compared with a pretax profit of £141,000 last time. For the whole of 1980-81, the group made a pretax profit of £145,000.

Amos Hinton jumps

In the 23 weeks to September 19, pretax profits of Amos Hinton and Sons climbed to

General Tire

Dr H. Khazan, the chairman of General Tire and Rubber (South Africa), has written to the shareholders of Hallite Holdings to say that the offer of 200p a share is final and will be paid in full. He said the firm's forecast profits of not less than £850,000 for 1981-82 are substantially below those achieved in 1978 (when the firm's profits reached a peak of £1.68m). General Tire's cash offer of 200p is generous.

Business appointments

Dr Jack Birks to head Charterhouse Petroleum

Dr Jack Birks is to become chairman of Charterhouse Petroleum when he retires as a managing director of British Petroleum next year. He will succeed Mr Malcolm Wells, who will be retiring from the board.

Mr Oliver Stocker, an executive director of Barclays Merchant Bank, is being succeeded by Mr Richard Young, chairman of News Corporation. Mr B. M. Rich becomes deputy chairman, Sir James Guthrie and Mr B. Matthews have become directors.

Mr Norman Leyland, former of Brunel University, Oxford has joined the board of Montagu Boston Investment Trust.

Miss Sonia Elton, director for smaller firms at the Confederation of British Industry, is to serve as a member of the Manpower Services Commission. She replaces Mr Michael Perry, the

CBT's director of education, training and technology. Miss Elton has been the CBT's director for smaller firms since March 1979. Before that she was deputy director of the Regional and Small Firms Department.

Mr Charles Spratt has become divisional managing director of the newly formed industries division of Rush & Tomkins Group. He will also be managing director of each of the divisional companies, Miss Spratt, Tomkins, becomes the industries division's director of technical services and remains a director of RSWT (Water Engineering). RSWT becomes an industries divisional company.

Miss Josephine E. Prevost, joint managing director of Chemical Bank International, the merchant banking arm of Chemical Bank, Mr Lawrence de V. Wragge becomes an executive director and Mr Michael Cooper an assistant director of Chemical Bank International.

Mr Peter Tudball is now managing director of the Graig Shipping Company.

Mr F. R. Hall has become managing director of Zurich Life. Mr C. Redman general manager and actuary, and Mr B. Hopper assistant general manager.

ALL MALT WHISKIES are good. A few, sublime. Among these, there is some gentlemanly jostling for pride of place.

The Old Contenders

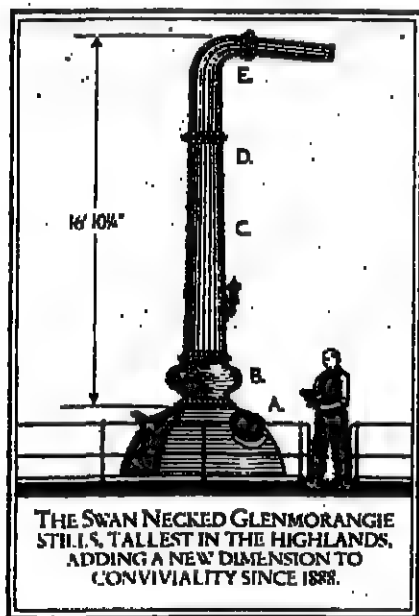
SOME POINT TO their products' mist-shrouded history; some to their peat and their barley; others yet to the chilly waters of the burn that feeds the distillery; or to the length of time the finished liquor matures and burgeons in its oaken bed.

Primus inter pares

ONLY ONE, HOWEVER, stands literally head and shoulders above the rest.

ITS NAME IS GLENMORANGIE, a saffron-gold malt of the most singular sweet-temper and purity.

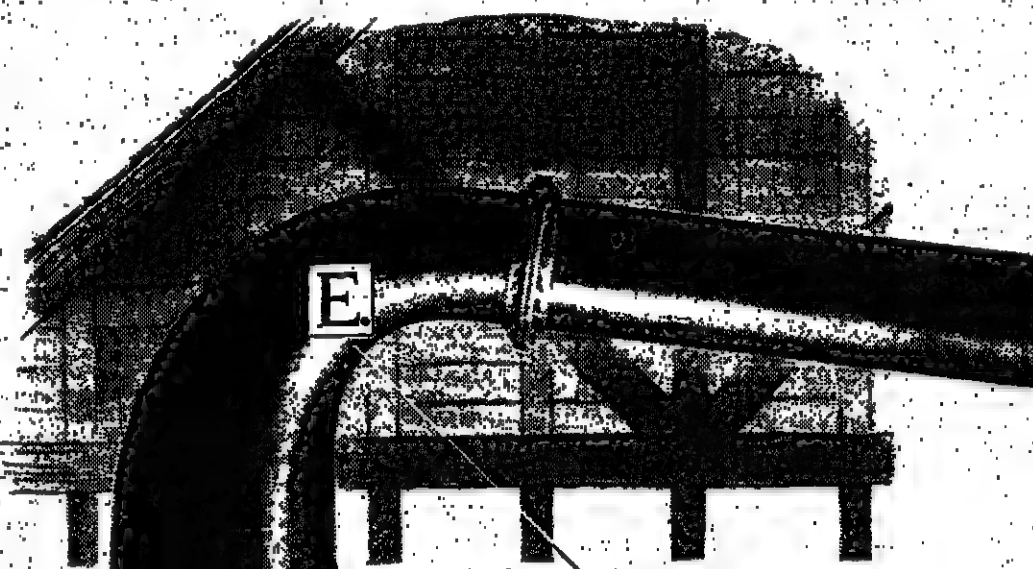
AT THIS POINT, most other Highland malt stills call it a day. But callow elements can still be ascending.



THE SWAN NECKED GLENMORANGIE STILL, TALLEST IN THE HIGHLANDS, ADDING A NEW DIMENSION TO CONVIVIALITY SINCE 1888.

NOTE THE BULGE in the neck just above the main body of the still. It catches the crasser essences and returns them to the boiling.

THE HEART of the whisky-making process, the still itself, where the cherished ingredients seethe and jostle in anticipation of imminent lift-off.



16 FEET 10 1/4 INCHES. The loftiest point in the chosen vapours' ascent. From here, the way is smooth.

EVEN THE HARDEST galewashers start dropping back at this stage.

Aswan among the onions

GLENMORANGIE'S VIRTUE, while deriving in part from hallowed spring water and time-honoured rituals as impressive as any of its rivals, stems most significantly from an idiosyncrasy of its stills which (though conventionally onion-shaped at the base) possess necks so tall that they make other Highland stills look almost dwarfish.

THIS IS NOT for the sake of mere elegance; it has a higher purpose.

The height of contentment

THE TALLER THE NECK of the still, the less can the heavier elements and grosser oils climb to mingle with the purer vapours that ascend to the top.

THE RESULT (after ten years' slumber in oaken casks) is a single malt whisky from which initiates obstinately refuse to be weaned, and to which newcomers vow dedication from the first uplifting bibble.



A little nearer heaven than other Malt Whiskies.

GLENMORANGIE

The Glenmorangie Distillery Company, Ltd., Ross-shire, Established 1843.

NatWest Investment Accounts

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday November 27th, 1981 the rate applied to

SIX MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS will be 14 1/2% per annum.

THREE MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS will be 14% per annum.

National Westminster Bank Limited

MARKET REPORTS

Veba down 19.5 pc for nine months

Net earnings of Veba, the energy and chemical group and West Germany's largest company, in terms of sales, declined by 19.5 per cent, to a preliminary DM214m (249.8m) in the first three quarters of 1981.

Veba reported that the lower profit came despite a 21.6 per cent rise in the group's external turnover to DM369.9m in the same nine-month span. The company said that price

International

risers accounted for a substantial portion of the increase in overall sales.

Income was under pressure so far this year, the group said, but the equally troublesome increase in material and energy costs since January abated near the end of the third quarter.

Mannesmann ahead

Mannesmann, the West German steel, pipe, and heavy industrial group, reports that its net earnings in the first nine months of 1981 improved on last year's but did not give precise figures.

Its pipelining operations and trading unit made significant improvements, while earnings of the group's Brazilian subsidiaries and the industrial installations division were unchanged.

Brown Boveri

Herr Franz Luterbacher, chairman of Brown Boveri, the Swiss industrial and farm equipment group, said yesterday it remained too early to forecast the 1981 dividend. The company was facing extraordinary depreciations on this year's business, he said, but the extent was not yet known.

Martin-Black

Martin-Black, which is based at Cotham, Bristol, has agreed, subject to shareholders' approval, to sell its Canadian offshoot, Martin-Black Inc., to Wire Rops Industries, a Canadian company owned by Noranda Mines. M-B Inc.

Stock markets

Strong rally after cut in US prime rates

Interest rates remained the focal point of activity in the market yesterday, with news of the latest reduction in US prime rates resulting in a strong rally after hours.

Earlier, prices had continued to drift through lack of interest as investors, uncertain of the next move, concentrated on specialist situations. Further losses were quickly apparent in gilt as the tight conditions in the money market, which the prevailing uncertainty of domestic rates, continued to pressure.

So by midday long were displaying falls of up to 1.5 and shorts up to 1.5. The news of a 2 per cent reduction in prime rates to 15.5 per cent and the subsequent rally in the bond market saw a smart about-face. Longs recovered to close 1.5 up on the day with shorts a similar amount, up in this trade.

Equities followed suit after a fairly mundane morning with interest concentrated on bid situations. But the news from New York saw the FT index climb 2.5 up to 320.4, after being 5.5 down at 11 am.

Leading industrials again presented a mixed picture. Rover maintained its strong after-hours rally from Monday night by rising a further 1.5 to 208, making a 4.5 rise in two

days on speculative interest. Becton saw up to 1.5, while Lucas Industries rose 3p to 211p after a small fire of 100,000 shares changed hands at the market level.

Hanson Trust surprised most of the market by extending its offer for Becton by three weeks to December 14. This move is designed to leave most of its options open until Hanson can assess the acceptance for the offer. Becton's offer for the Hanson Trust, which is currently holding 16.9 per cent of Becton with a further 1.25 per cent guaranteed. Shares of Becton slipped 1p to 129p, while Hanson added 2p to 278p.

But Thomas Tilling, whose share offer runs out on December 10, slipped 2p to 135p.

Brokers Cazenove were building 3.5p a share for 1.8m shares in Braham Miller in a real-time raid on behalf of Bath & Portland. B & P currently holds 14.9 per cent of the equity in Braham Miller and this latest purchase extends its holdings to 29.9 per cent. Shares of B & P rose 3p to 98p.

English China Clay rose 2p to 150p, on hopes of a bid from its recent offer for The W. Field, which, according to some market sources, may also make a dawn raid on Steelco, 6p higher at 174p.

RZ held steady at 44p after its recent offer for The W. Ward, 2p dearer at 188p, while

Tunnel Holdings 'B' in which Wards holds 42 per cent, rose 10p to 500p ahead of figures tomorrow.

NCC Energy rose 5p to 98p on the intervention of Australian Mr. Alan Bond over the merger with Simplicity. The intervention of the Australian Energy Capital, boosting the shares 5p to 60p.

Geers Gross celebrated a £2m contract from BP with a 10p rise at 118p. European Ferries, awaiting the outcome of the Monopolies report in the gross Channel ferry operations, hardened 2p to 68p.

Better than expected trading news lifted BPB 12p to 24p, while Century Oil, 3p to 87p, and Anglo-Hunter 5p to 249p and Mansfield Brewery 18p to 278p. Still reflecting recent profits news, Vintrose rose 4p to 188p and Centric 5p to 42p.

Equity turnover on November 23 was 124,076m (13,732 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: BPB Ind, CE Heath, Braham Miller, Becton Group, Plessey, Racal, GEC, BP and British Aerospace.

Traded options: Of 1346 contracts, puts made up 387. Interest was led by GEC on 236 and Shell on 113.

Traded options: saw calls in Royal Bank of Scotland on 20p, ICL on 61p and Comtech on 2p, while a put was arranged in Royal Bank of Scotland on 20p, ICL on 61p and Comtech on 2p, while a put was arranged in Royal Bank of Scotland on 20p, ICL on 61p and Comtech on 2p.

RZ held steady at 44p after its recent offer for The W. Ward, 2p dearer at 188p, while

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

LEAD was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

STEEL was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

IRON was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

COAL was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

WHEAT was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

BARLEY was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

RYE was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

MAIZE was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

SUGAR was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

COFFEE was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

TEA was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

CLOVE was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

PEPPER was steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

SPICES were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

HERBS were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

FRUITS were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

VEGETABLES were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

MEATS were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

POULTRY were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

SEAFOOD were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

WINE were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

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TOBACCO were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

TEXTILES were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

LEATHERS were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

PAINTS were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

PLASTICS were steady. Afternoon: 100lb standard three months, 205.50; 100lb standard one month, 205.50; 100lb standard six months, 205.50; 100lb standard nine months, 205.50; 100lb standard twelve months, 205.50.

Wall Street

Wall Street

New York, Nov. 24—Stocks closed sharply higher, boosted by declining interest rates, signs inflation is abating and a rally in the bond market.

The Dow Jones industrial average showed only slight gains most of the day but then took off about mid-afternoon to close up 18.45 points at 870.24. Advances led declines by about 1,000 to 500 and volume soared to some 59 million shares from 45,250,000 on Monday.

Mr. Michael Metz, of Oppenheimer and Co., said the rally

was particularly encouraging because the leaders came from blue chip stocks rather than the speculative takeover issues that have dominated trading the last few days.

More support came from prime rate cuts, to 16 per cent by most major banks and 15 per cent by Chase Manhattan.

"The prime rate came down much faster and deeper than we had thought," Mr. Robert Stovall, of Dean Witter Reynolds, said.

Even news that car sales were sharply down for November failed to dent optimism.

Monthly figures for unemployment in United Kingdom published by the Department of Employment yesterday.

Adults (thousands) of all (seasonally adjusted) employees 1980 2,030 8.4 2,153 1981 2,137 8.8 2,244

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds Table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield	Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield	Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield	Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield
Authorized Unit Trusts				Insurance Funds				Offshore Funds				Insurance Funds			
1. American Mutual Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	1. American Mutual Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	1. American Mutual Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	1. American Mutual Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%
2. British American Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	2. British American Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	2. British American Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	2. British American Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%
3. Canadian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	3. Canadian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	3. Canadian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	3. Canadian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%
4. Dutch Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	4. Dutch Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	4. Dutch Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	4. Dutch Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%
5. French Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	5. French Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	5. French Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	5. French Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%
6. German Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	6. German Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	6. German Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	6. German Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%
7. Italian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	7. Italian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	7. Italian Fund	10.00	0.10	1.0%	7. Italian Fund	10.00	0.10	

behind Pigma, was Twenty-and-a-half weeks, as Tolson and his week's rate should give a clear indication of his form just two months away from the 1992 world championships at Leningrad in Brinsford.

La creme de la creme

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negotiable up to c £7,000 p.a.

required by the Chairman of one of Britain's successful Engineering Companies whose products are market leaders selling in most countries of the world.

The nature of the job and the demands it makes on the holder are such that only candidates who are truly career minded and dedicated to their work should apply. The requirement is for a highly competent secretary with excellent shorthand and typing skills who has both the personal qualities and the all-round business experience to succeed in a high grade appointment.

The work is demanding and will involve longer than normal working hours, but for the right person it provides the kind of opportunity and involvement that a Top Secretary seeks.

Applicants, who are unlikely to be less than 25 years of age should be care workers and resident in the Mid/South Bedfordshire area.

In the first instance, send comprehensive C.V. in return for further details and Application Form.



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Brompton HospitalPersonal Assistant
to Group Engineer

(salary within range £5,788-£7,543)

required to provide an administrative and secretarial service both to the Group Engineer and also to other members of the Department.

The work will include attendance at meetings to record minutes, dissemination of information throughout the Department, maintenance of staff records, organisation of work, going out to tender, communications with contractors and hospital staff, plus normal secretarial work for which good shorthand and typing skills are required. The ability to work on own initiative without supervision is essential.

Application forms and further details from Miss J. A. Jenks, Personnel Manager, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Tel: 01-352 8121, ext. 4357.

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Organise the hectic business and social life of this City businessman—one minute it's high finance, the next it's with the Trainer of his Racing stables. Good speeds, a car driver, quick thinking and a vibrant personality needed for this one!

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Tel: 01-629 9323
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As Assistant to the International Personnel Manager, you will need to have initiative and a flair for administration. You will be used to making responsible and working under pressure (with up to 150 transfers a year, you will certainly be busy!)—and you must enjoy dealing with people and their many queries. You should have good shorthand and typing skills and around 4 years' previous experience.

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified, responsible Secretaries, for the above new post. Located in our West End Office, the Private Secretary will be responsible for the personal business of our Senior Executive and must be willing to travel at short notice to any part of Europe or Scandinavia on their behalf.

This position will be of interest to mature, trustworthy Administrators/Secretaries, aged 40-50 years, single, who possess good shorthand/typing skills and have at least five years' senior level experience running the Private Office of a Company Chairman or similar. Excellent Contract Conditions will be offered with a salary of £7,000 p.a. Suitably qualified candidates should forward detailed CV, and copy Qualifications/References, (including E.A.D. No.) to:

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Paris, fluent French sec no a/hand, 21+, £7,500.

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London City, Greek-speaking recep/typist, £6,000.

Hounslow, fluent German sec, 22+, £8,000+.

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Organise the hectic business and social life of this City businessman—one minute it's high finance, the next it's with the Trainer of his Racing stables. Good speeds, a car driver, quick thinking and a vibrant personality needed for this one!

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The Managing Director of Independent Television Publications Limited (the publishers of TV Times Magazine) requires a

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Previous experience of working at this level is essential. Candidates must have a full knowledge of the duties associated with the handling of a Chief Executive's business activities.

This is a demanding and challenging job, which will involve working irregular hours. In return, it will command a salary of not less than £5,500 per annum.

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Independent Television Publications Ltd.,

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No telephone applications, please

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requires an experienced

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to work for one of our branches. Approximately 10% of the work will be done in French. The successful candidate will be responsible for the personal business of our Senior Executive and must be willing to travel at short notice to any part of Europe or Scandinavia on their behalf.

This position will be of interest to mature, trustworthy Administrators/Secretaries, aged 40-50 years, single, who possess good shorthand/typing skills and have at least five years' senior level experience running the Private Office of a Company Chairman or similar. Excellent Contract Conditions will be offered with a salary of £7,000 p.a. Suitably qualified candidates should forward detailed CV, and copy Qualifications/References, (including E.A.D. No.) to:

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Curb on foreign bank bids shelved

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet's economic strategy committee yesterday decided to shelve a plan to legislate against foreign takeovers of British banks.

A Treasury paper, calling for reserve powers to block selected takeovers, has been on the committee's rolling agenda for a number of weeks.

The proposal was prompted by Bank of England disquiet over the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's £500m-plus bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland earlier this year.

Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, was said to be the moving force behind the Treasury counter attack. But when the issue was finally reached at a No 10 meeting of ministers yesterday morning, it was formally agreed that there should be no present plans to legislate.

Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, the deputy Foreign Secretary, who is also the Lord Privy Seal, were understood to have taken a highly hostile line against the Treasury brief,

which would have been backed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor.

Some Whitehall sources suggested last night that the Treasury would now attempt to minimise the setback, perhaps, that it had merely been acting as a mouthpiece for the Bank.

It was pointed out that if the Chancellor had been acting as a devil's advocate, the Treasury paper had carried supreme conviction.

Nevertheless, the point made jointly by Trade and the Foreign Office was that it would be dangerous for the Government to take overt and precipitate action against foreign takeovers at a time when Her Majesty's Government was calling for liberalisation of financial services in the EEC.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is now examining the Royal Bank of Scotland bids from both Hongkong and Shanghai and the Standard Chartered Bank, could also offer a more subtle resolution of the problem when it reports to Mr Biffen, sometime before the end of January.

Stevens gets the sack

Continued from page 1

the *Daily Express* proved more resilient when he took over in 1972. He saved several million pounds by closing the Scottish *Daily Express* in 1974, but was unable to prevent a steady ebb of circulation.

The *Daily Express*, the group's flagship, packed in vain from "up-market" to "down-market" under one editor after another: first Ian MacColl, then Alan Bates, Roy Wright, Derek Jamieson, Arthur Firth and, finally, Christopher Ward. He came over from the *Daily Mirror* six weeks ago.

Yesterday Mr Ward told his editorial staff that he had been assured by Lord Matthews that the company's plans for the group would not be in any way affected by Stevens's departure. The situation remained that the company intended to develop and strengthen the *Daily Express* editorially and invest in its future success. Lord Matthews had added that

he was pleased with recent changes in the paper (which has been going back up-market), and the editor and staff enjoyed his complete confidence.

Trafalgar House took over the ailing Beaverbrook empire in 1977 and Mr Stevens with it. The handsome, golden-haired Old Etonian, now 49, with his short temper and taste for high life, was an odd chief executive for Victor Matthews, the self-made rough-hewn builder who is now 61. In the end, Lord Matthews, as he became, may have decided that he needed a rather staid hand at the tiller as his newspapers pough through Fleet Street's heavy seas.

Our City staff writes: Lord's hotel profits last year were £48m. It owns £30.5m worth of hotels in the United Kingdom, including The Ritz, and in the Caribbean; and Curmaid with the Q&R as its flagship in £7m worth of ships, aircraft, plant and equipment. *Diary*, page 12.



From college to the top: In 1936, the 30-year-old Leonid Brezhnev (right) was a student at a military armour school. There have been rich rewards since.

Son of the Soviet Union, for 75 years and true

The Soviet news agency Tass has issued the following statement and accompanying photographs to celebrate the occasion of President Brezhnev's seventy-fifth birthday:

The 19th of December, 1981, is the 75th birthday of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, chairman of the Defence Council of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union, who is an outstanding continuer of Lenin's cause and that of the great October Socialist Revolution, a true son of the Soviet Nation and a great activist of the Communist Party, Soviet state and

international communist movement, a champion of peace and social progress, and a consistent Marxist-Leninist.

The resolute and fruitful activity of L. I. Brezhnev is an inspiring example of selfless service to the motherland, to the Lenin party and the cause of communism.

The inexhaustible energy, the principled stand of the party member and the indissoluble connection with the nation's life, which are all inherent in L. I. Brezhnev's work, have gained him the universal affection and a profound respect by the working people.

In all the posts in the party's and the state's management, which he has ever held on the party's directions, L. I.

Brezhnev has justified the honourable trust accorded to him.

Under L. I. Brezhnev's wise guidance our country is steadily progressing economically, politically and culturally, the alliance of the working class, collective farmers and people's intelligentsia has been still strengthening and the friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union has become closer.

The success of the USSR in building up a communist society is much contributed by the multifaceted activity of L. I. Brezhnev in strengthening peace in the world and in building up the Soviet Union's prestige and influence in the international arena.

Tentative peace offer at ITN

The television technicians union, ACTT, offered last night to end its four-day-old strike at Independent Television. News if management referred the dispute to the industry's agreed arbitration.

BL challenges big rate increases

Rates increases on its car plants running into millions of pounds were challenged by BL yesterday in the High Court. BL Cars, still struggling to achieve economic recovery, faces a total rate bill this year for its factories in Birmingham of £554m, and in Coventry, a further £235m.

Ford lays off 2,000 at Halewood

Two thousand workers at Halewood, Merseyside, were laid off at lunchtime yesterday because of a lay-off over discipline. The lay-off came after a worker in the assembly plant was suspended.

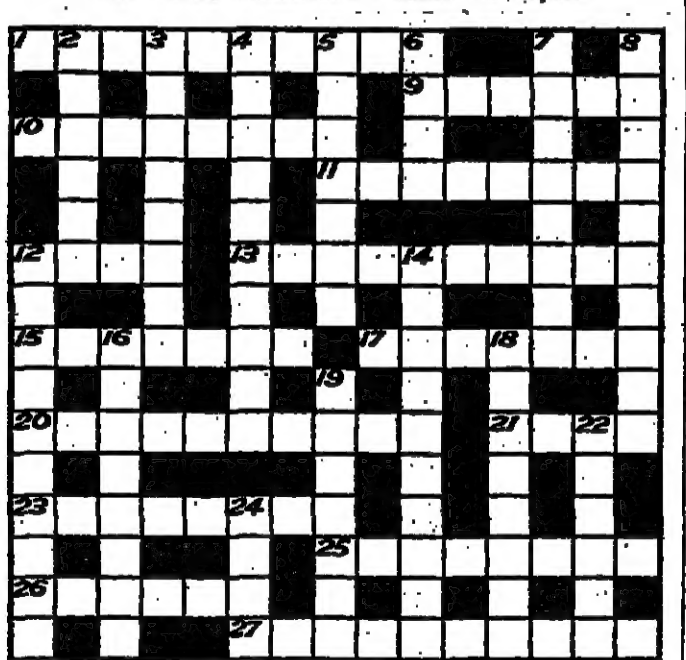
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Tomorrow's events

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh give luncheon party for those attending meeting of the European Council in London, Buckingham Palace, 1. The Prince and Princess of Wales also attend.

The Duke of Edinburgh, chairman of National Federation of Housing Associations working party on rural housing, chairs conference, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, 3.25. The Prince and Princess of Wales also attend.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,689



ACROSS

- 1 Fascinate of journalist's work (6).
- 2 Egghead, poor rival for Don's former sweetheart (6).
- 3 Record of 17th Century fireplace (8).
- 4 Design to give dance as wedding present (5-4).
- 5 Outfits to examine carefully (4).
- 6 Part of the movement that led to 15 (10).
- 7 These fighters release titled brother (7).
- 8 To curb consumption is of no avail (7).
- 9 Banged a kind of bell and had speech stopped (6,4).
- 10 Stripped under endless difficulty (4).
- 11 Such hands are liable to decline responsibility (8).
- 12 Bird's openings to nest under that church (8).
- 13 On paper, rubber has no visible effect (6).
- 14 Royal household's gaming board (5,5).

- 1 One over the eight? This provides timely rescue (10).
- 2 Bear footman who's not in step (7).
- 3 Outcry in Shetland (4).
- 4 Veronica's view (5-3).
- 5 What's left of unsavoury mouthful (5,5).
- 6 Flattery is silly, observed the German (4,6).
- 7 Stop-go device of press (4-6).
- 8 Primitive Italian form of centaurs (8).
- 9 Ship's arrival causes collapse of country (8).
- 10 Enter undisturbed by old French general (7).
- 11 Cheated firm beginning to trade in Oxfordshire (5).
- 12 Composer's main danger (4,6).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,688

ACROSS: 1. FASCINATE, 2. RIVAL, 3. RECORD, 4. DESIGN, 5. OUTFITS, 6. PART, 7. FIGHTERS, 8. CURB, 9. BANG, 10. STRIPPED, 11. SUCH, 12. BIRD, 13. ON, 14. ROYAL.

DOWN: 1. ONE, 2. BEAR, 3. OUTCRY, 4. VERONICA, 5. WHAT, 6. FLATTERY, 7. STOP, 8. PRIMITIVE, 9. SHIP, 10. ENTER, 11. CHEATED, 12. COMPOSER.

logical Society of London attends society's symposium on animal diseases, Regent Park, 3.20. and attends dinner given by Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord Street, London, 7.45.

The Prince of Wales receives Honorary Doctorate of Music, Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, 3. Princess Anne opens Gunter Museum, Radiotherapy Unit, Charing Cross Hospital, 2.30, and, as Chancellor of the University of London, attends Foundation Day, 6.15.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Royal College of Music, 3.30. Princess Margaret presents Christmas Cards of the Year Awards in aid of Barnardo's, which she is president, Savoy Hotel, 12.30.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester attends reception, RAF Brompton, Cambridge, 3. The Duke of Gloucester, as president, Cancer Research Campaign, opens Association of Medical Research charities exhibition, Fortness House, Savile Row, 11.35, and attends Swan Feast of the War and Naval Company of Veterans, Vintners' Hall, 7.15.

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Frank Johnson in Crosby Janet and John and the fatal Shirley

Mr John Butcher, the Conservative candidate in the Crosby by-election, last night threw himself under a rush of commuters at one of the constituency's railway stations. After the opinion polls, it was the only way out. No doubt a coroner would rule that he took this course of action while the balance of his majority was disturbed. Another reason was his obsession with a woman.

Mr Butcher abandoned his questioning of Janet. He lacks staying power. He repositioned himself at the top of the station stairs in front of the wave of commuters from the next train. (We were on Fanny Station in the second most staunchly Conservative part of the constituency after the town of Crosby itself. A BBC camera crew hovered nearby to make him look ridiculous for some programme on the election. He cooperated.)

Suddenly, commuters surged up the stairs. He was standing too near the top. So they did not have a chance to slow down before seeing him. Instead, all they saw was this man in a light-brown camel-hair coat and a blue rosette suffused in a television light. One after another the commuters collided with his outspread hand as if they were those little dots on the space invader machines.

"Hello, I am John Butcher, I am John Butcher, hello, hello, I am John Butcher, I am John Butcher. He is not a particularly vain man as Conservative candidates go, but it did not seem to occur to him that people's first reaction maybe to ask of themselves the question: Who is John Butcher?"

Then, the hand-shake and passed instantly on. No one was impolite. Yet, like generations of candidates before him, Mr Butcher pressed on. What else could he do? He is the candidate for the governing party at a by-election in mid-Parliament. To doubt he would have liked to have fought his safe Conservative seat as a happier time. But politics is always a matter of luck. He has had a bad press, but that is partly because, contrary to the theory of the Tory-dominated media, in division Tories do not generally get on with individual by-election reporters. Shirley, who has been dogged by bad press, was against him? Was it because she did not like having things put

through her door? As a reason for her choice, that would have been no less irrational than many of the other explanations being produced by Crosby's electorate for their impending decision. Mr Butcher abandoned his questioning of Janet. He lacks staying power. He repositioned himself at the top of the station stairs in front of the wave of commuters from the next train. (We were on Fanny Station in the second most staunchly Conservative part of the constituency after the town of Crosby itself. A BBC camera crew hovered nearby to make him look ridiculous for some programme on the election. He cooperated.)

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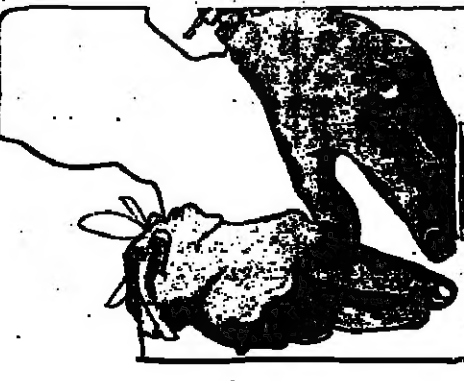
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